

THE GATEWAY

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2 0 **vote** 0 6



○ **POWER, Samantha**



○ **GERMAN, Greg**



○ **KELLY, Michelle**

ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE KENNERICK, FROM PHOTOS BY JENNY FROGER

COLLEGE OF ELECTORS It's time, once again, for the Students' Union election. Voting will take place on 8 and 9 March, but now's the time to start thinking about who you're going to vote for, and the Gateway is here to help. On pages 4 and 5, we have a Q & A with the three presidential candidates: Samantha Power, Michelle Kelly, and Greg German. On page six, we speak to Board of Governors representative candidate Chris Samuel and Vice-President (Academic) candidate Amanda Henry, who are both running unopposed. The rest of the races will be covered in next Tuesday's Gateway.

University reconsidering mandatory retirement policy

RACHEL HENDRICKS
News Writer

U of A professors nearing the University's mandatory retirement age of 65 may not have to pack up their belongings just yet.

In accordance with contract negotiations between U of A's Administration and the Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (AASUA), a task force is currently investigating the implications of eliminating mandatory retirement, a controversial move that some Canadian universities have already made.

By 30 June, the AASUA and University of Alberta Mandatory Retirement Task Force will present a report that, among other things, considers University costs, academic renewal, the recruitment and retention of faculty, and benefits and pensions—issues relating to budget and teaching quality that therefore concern different groups, from faculty members to students.

"[Consideration] is not limited to just faculty members. All stakeholders in the University are being considered," said task force member and Law professor Dr Rod Wood.

"I think that this is fundamentally a human rights issue, and retiring someone at the chronological age of 65, no matter how productive they are, is... simply wrong."

DR RONALD MCELHANEY,
BIOCHEMISTRY PROFESSOR

At 64, Dr Ronald McElhane, professor of Biochemistry, is a stakeholder with special interest in the U of A's policy on mandatory retirement. Like many others in his

situation, McElhane not only hopes for a speedy change, but believes the abolition of mandatory retirement is an ethical necessity.

"I think that this is fundamentally a human rights issue, and retiring someone at the chronological age of 65, no matter how productive they are, is... simply wrong," McElhane said.

Some consider costs an obstacle in eliminating mandatory retirement. Since the minimum wage of an assistant professor is now nearly \$30 000 less than for a tenured professor, replacing high-earners with newer faculty costs the University less.

"If it was a little cheaper, or a little more administratively convenient to, for example, retire women at an earlier age than men, I think of course this would be considered to be outlandish... but age is [considered] a little bit different," said McElhane.

Mandatory retirement as an age bias is a hotly contested issue and has a history at the U of A.

PLEASE SEE RETIREMENT • PAGE 3

Travel Cuts settlement in jeopardy after comments

CHLOÉ FEDO
Deputy News Editor

The drawn-out Travel Cuts dispute is facing yet another delay after Students' Union President Graham Lettner made controversial statements about a pre-trial settlement.

In the 28 February Gateway, Lettner said, "It's clear in the settlement, and it's clear in the work that we've done, that the plaintiffs were wronged in the past," adding that the agreement was a matter of vindication.

"The statements are false and a fundamental violation of the agreement," said Executive Director of the Canadian Federation of Students-Services (CFS-S) Philip Link. "I think we need an unequivocal retraction from Graham Lettner—an acknowledgment that the statements were false in every way. Not just that they were false, but some acknowledgment that that wasn't the basis on which we were settling, and that the settlement states nothing of the sort."

Last week, an out-of-court settle-

ment was reached regarding ownership of Travel Cuts. It provided a newly created non-profit organization—of which plaintiffs will be members along with twelve other students' unions—with a 24 per cent share in the company. Link said that CFS-S was "sufficiently satisfied" when the agreement was made.

"We were comfortable in agreeing with a settlement, but not a settlement whereby the plaintiffs can make these sorts of false claims about what the settlement means and how it should be viewed, because in no way are we in any way saying that there was wrongdoing by us or Travel Cuts, and that was explicit in this settlement," Link said.

After learning of the comments, CFS-S released a statement yesterday stating that Lettner's "false statements" violated the terms of the agreement and may result in its cancellation.

"In the settlement, we're not to contradict the joint statement to the extent that we did; it shouldn't have been done," Lettner said.

PLEASE SEE TRAVEL CUTS • PAGE 2

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Making tracks

The Sidetrack Café is packing up and moving down the road. Amanda Ash gets the story from the staff in A&E.

A&E, PAGE 14

Correction

In the article "CFS-S cuts plaintiffs a deal, finally," published in the 28 February issue of the Gateway, it was stated that the four plaintiff students' unions in a lawsuit against the Canadian Federation of Students-Services regarding ownership of Travel Cuts, including the University of Alberta's Students' Union, would receive a 24 per cent share in the company as a result of a settlement. In fact, the settlement provides for the 24 per cent to belong to a newly created non-profit organization, of which the plaintiffs will be members along with twelve other students' unions.

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colophon

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Medshow goes silent after controversial 2005 edition

EDMON ROTEA
News Staff

The stage of the Myer Horowitz Theatre will lie empty this March, devoid of the humorous and theatrical talents of medical students.

After 57 years of existence, and following controversy in recent years, the annual tradition of the Faculty of Medicine's Medshow has been put to rest for an indefinite subaltern.

"This was a student decision. They wished to let matters rest for a year," said Dr Thomas Marrie, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, who had been critical of last year's show.

Last year's Medshow, filled with dark humour, was met with controversy and criticism, especially from nurse advocacy and religious faith groups who took offence to the comedic skits, including a song about nurses deemed sexist and a representation of Adolf Hitler singing "Teddy Bear's Picnic." Plans for a censored or toned-down

version of the Medshow were considered, but eventually scrapped.

"Medshow was also a venue to show the rest of the University community that medical students are not simply high-strung, anal-retentive individuals."

TONG LAM, MEDICAL STUDENT

"Because of all the media attention that Medshow 2005 received, some people felt that having any type of Medshow, including a toned-down version, was not a good idea," explained Tong Lam, a medical student who participated in last year's event.

Other proposed alternatives to replace this year's Medshow included

having a more standard talent show, but the idea was met with a lack of interest and support.

Still, Lam believes that having a Medshow remains important, especially in strengthening the relationships among current medical students.

"My fondest memories from medical school last year came from the weeks leading up to Medshow, and the three nights of the show itself. Writing scripts, rehearsing, advertising, selling tickets and acting in the show all helped to strengthen friendships and increase the camaraderie between students," said Lam.

Lam also added that the Medshow was not only a means for talented, stage-ambitious medical students to relieve the stress and tension of a challenging education, but also a way for students to portray the more humorous side of their personalities.

"Medshow was also a venue to show the rest of the University community that medical students are not simply

high-strung, anal-retentive individuals," said Lam.

For now, medical students have many other venues available to them to show off their stage talents—while benefiting the medical student community and fostering more awareness amongst students from other faculties and disciplines and the local community.

Besides the Medshow, other outlets of creativity for medical students to express themselves include the Winter Concert, Med Formal, Health is Wealth and a variety of other social events.

However, support for an annual Medshow still persists amongst current medical students.

"The students who support Medshow will continue to explore all possible options to revive the show. Because of all the positive aspects of the Medshow, some students feel that the medical school at the U of A will never be the same without it," said Lam.



ENGINEERING PEANUT BUTTER In an effort to dispel the notion that there's a link between poverty and laziness, the U of A chapter of Engineers Without Borders set up camp in Quad for 24 hours—a simulation of life in Ghana.

CFS-S says suit settlement was a business decision

TRAVEL CUTS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"There's no appropriation of blame or wrongdoing to the plaintiffs or the defendants in the agreement, so that's what they're taking issue with."

Travel Cuts was originally owned by the Association of Student Councils Canada (AOSC), now a dormant organization, which passed along its assets to a new organization, CFS-S, in 1987.

Years later, a dispute arose between CFS-S and four plaintiff student governments from the University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University of Western Ontario and Queen's University—which were members of AOSC, but not CFS-S—pertaining to the ownership and operations Travel Cuts.

The lawsuit was originally filed by Western University Students' Council in 1996, accusing CFS-S of illegally transferring the company, and asked for its full benefits, including free International Student Identity Cards (ISIC) for all undergraduate student associations across Canada, whether they are part of CFS-S or not. However, Link disputed this claim.

"It was only because the plaintiffs—a decade later—came up with this scheme to try to reverse that, basically relying on this technicality that the motion, back in 1987, directed

that the transfer be completed by 30 June, 1988, and that it wasn't," Link said.

He went on to say that the only problem with the transfer was that it wasn't completed within the AOSC's prescribed timeline.

"The only wrongdoing is that this group of student unions has leveraged this portion of the ownership, and it's because we're thinking of the best interest of the company, and what's in the best interest of the company is remaining on the UBC, U of A and Western campuses, and that wasn't necessarily going to be the outcome when we won the suit in court," said Link. "But the notion that these guys were wronged is a joke."

Letner responded to the Gateway in writing about his controversial comments and paid to place an advertisement on page 7 of today's issue.

"The settlement contained no acknowledgement of wrongdoing on either side, and no admission of liability by the plaintiffs or defendants," Letner wrote.

"I think other than publishing exactly what we have there, there's no need to follow up further," he later said. "That closes up any miscommunication that was made earlier on in the 28 February news edition, and we're going to leave it at that."



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STREETERS

Compiled and photographed
by *Chloé Fedio and Ross
Prusakowski*

The University of Alberta is currently reviewing its policy of mandatory retirement of professors over the age of 65.

What do you think of the University's mandatory retirement policy?



Meghan Tol
Arts III

I think that it's pretty dependent on if the professors are capable of doing a good job. I think it's subjective to the situation.



Kerri Shannon
Science IV

If they're a good professor, then they should be able to stay. It should depend on their evaluation, if they've had more than five negative evaluations, but it shouldn't be forced; 65 is not that old, people are living until they're 85 now. And you don't really become a professor until you're 30-something.



John Hagg
Arts I

It should be on a case-to-case basis, because I have an uncle who's 66 and he's a hook, but then my dad is 61 and he's cool; he's got nothing wrong with him.



Curtis Hrdlicka
Science II

I think if they're good professors, they should stay around as long as they want. We've got some crappy 20-year-old professors here, so I think there should be mandatory retirement for shitty professors.

CJSR show to document youth justice system

KIM MISUTKA
News Writer

Four full-time Edmonton students are travelling across Canada to record radio documentaries, examining the country's youth justice system in a CJSR project that is the first of its kind.

The program, called *Detour*, is part of *Youth Menace*, a CJSR radio show which all four students serve as volunteer hosts for, and sets out to document issues dealing with both the child welfare system as well as the youth justice system across the country.

With help from CJSR and a \$200,000 federal government grant supported by the Department of Justice's Youth Justice Renewal Fund, Liv Lunde, Lindsey McNeill, Eryn Fitzgerald, Ash Kelly and coordinator Mark Cherrington have been researching intensively to produce *Detour*, which will consist of six one-hour radio documentaries and an educational 80-minute compact disc.

The project will centre on court divisionary programs set up as substitutes for minors being taken to court, and get an inside look from those involved first-hand.

"We took what we do on [*Youth Menace*] to a national level, and really tried to see how the new Youth Criminal Justice Act is working in communities across Canada, seeing if programs that are being implemented are actually dropping crime rates and are helping the kids, helping the community and keeping the justice system working and not clogging up courts and jails," said Lunde.

"We also want to find out if these programs are working, not just show-case them and be cheerleaders for the government. I think we really want to look at, if it's working, why, and do they need more funding?" McNeill added.

McNeill said *Detour* plans not only to look at these different programs, but also question what things could be changed to benefit the youth.

"There are so many programs out there that a lot of people don't know of that are struggling because they don't have enough volunteers, or workers, or it isn't seen as relevant," said McNeill.

Detour will focus particularly on court divisionary programs, observing how communities across Canada are working with crime in communities under the newly enacted YCJA.

"You have maybe a rural community in Northern Alberta, and then you have a big urban centre like Toronto or Montréal. Those are very different communities, so what kind of responses are they doing for youth and crime and how are they addressing that?" asked Fitzgerald.

"There are so many programs out there that a lot of people don't know of that are struggling because they don't have enough volunteers, or workers, or it is not seen as relevant."

LINDSEY MCNEILL, DETOUR

The first half of the one-year project will include a radio play, an educational but humorous way to stress the importance of youth rights, incorporated onto an 80-minute CD featuring various Canadian artists and distributed to radio stations across the nation.

The second half of the project will entail travelling to various locations across Canada, from Fort Chipewyan to Montréal, dissecting the youth justice system put into place in those areas and testing their effectiveness. They will produce a radio documentary consisting of interviews with those involved in the Restorative Justice and Youth Criminal Justice Acts, which will then be played on airwaves across Canada.

Lunde said the project's main focus is to spread awareness to troubled youth and inform them about their rights.

"Even if you have committed a crime, there are choices for you. You can choose to continue to commit crimes, you can choose to pay back to your community, you can choose to go to jail for the time that is sentenced upon you. You still have these choices even though it feels like you're being pushed one way," said Lunde.

Though *Detour*'s discoveries won't actually appear on CJSR for another year and a half, updates of their experience can be viewed online, including personal travel blogs, which will be available later this month.

Mandatory retirement saves money, defenders say

RETIREMENT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dr. Oliver Dickson, a history professor, took the University to court, arguing that mandatory retirement violated Alberta's Individual's Rights Protection Act. But in 1992 the Supreme Court of Canada found otherwise and ruled in favour of the University.

But not all faculty members are eager to do away with mandatory retirement. In a survey on retirement and pension prepared for the AAS/UA in June 2004, researchers reported varying positions on mandatory retirement from faculty members.

"Mandatory retirement is a generally good system, since it creates opportunities for faculty renewal and obviates the potential problem of having to 'force out' elderly faculty—who have in most cases given many good years of service—who are no longer functioning at a 'high' enough level," wrote one survey respondent.

There are also those with mixed views on the issue. Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Mathieu Johnson said that teaching quality at the U of A could likely be improved by eliminating mandatory retirement, saying that experienced professors are often better than the new ones. However, he said university costs are still an issue.

"If there are more teachers hanging around in a much higher salary bracket, then that's just another drain on the University budget, which is, as we're told, already significantly stressed. And the University tends to think that the only good source of increasing their revenue is tuition," said Johnson.

The task force is still in the process of gathering information and receiving input on the issue, and interested parties can send comments to taskforces@mail.ido.ualberta.ca.

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ON THE TRAIL Students' Union presidential candidates (left to right) Greg German, Michelle Kelly and Samantha Power sat down with the Gateway to discuss their ideas on tuition, lobbying and more.

The best-laid plans of SU presidential candidates

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
News Staff

This year, three students are seeking the presidency of the Students' Union: current Vice-President (External) Samantha Power, University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society President Greg German, and Arts councilor Michelle Kelly.

1 What's the main goal you hope to accomplish as president?

Samantha Power: Well there are actually two that I hold as priorities. First of all, the new University President, Indra Samarasekera, is actually focusing on undergraduate priorities, so I'd like to make sure that we push for implementation on a lot of those priorities, like increasing the civic engagement priorities on campus, connections between student groups

and your academic learning environments—those types of things—and making a better quality of education for students. Secondly, I'd really like to push for the provincial promise on the affordability review for a new tuition fee policy. I think that's one thing that we really need to push for this year, because the province has promised a new tuition fee policy for September 2006 and very little movement has been made on it.

Greg German: My main goal is improving the quality of education and focusing on the student experience. I've been doing a lot of research into how students feel their education goes, on their opinions on what they're getting. And it seems like when asked about their education, in general they kind of allude to two sects: an academic sect and a non-academic sect. When you look at the academic

sect, students, at least at the University of Alberta, rank their level of academic challenge, their interaction with faculty, things like that, above national averages. So, for the most part, there doesn't seem to be a large academic problem for students, at least in their opinion. However, when you look at student satisfaction overall, and how the students feel their quality of education ranks, we're quite a bit below average. That leads us to believe that students lack a sense of campus community, students here lack a sense of campus pride, things like this.

Michelle Kelly: I don't think there's one that I would prioritize over the others. The main ones are to sort of provide service for students, first of all. Basically, the services that we have serve some purpose, but even at the university level, like CaPS and things like that, they're good ideas,

but I don't think they go far enough to reach students or provide students with what they need. And then I think that we need to lobby the University for tuition issues, housing issues, food issues, parking, and things like that. I feel like they've gone largely ignored in the last few years, so I'd like to see us come back and really talk to them about that and try to make those priorities again. And then I'd really like to see federal and provincial tuition campaigns go hard. So they're really diverse, which is why I couldn't pick one.

2 Do you support the proposed tobacco ban, and would you lobby the University to implement if students vote in favour of it?

Power: If students vote in favor of it, then I'm in favour of it. I mean, as SU president you have to follow what

students believe. But I don't feel that a tobacco ban on campus is completely necessary. I mean, all the buildings are smoke free—if the guy in the office next to me was still smoking I might have a problem—but if students choose to smoke then that's their choice, really.

German: I would say that I don't support it. I support no smoking in buildings, but it's a slippery slope. I mean, smoking is damaging to bystanders, but it's a personal choice that the smokers make—we can't even tell pregnant mothers how to be: it's their right. It's a human right. I think denying people that attend this institution basic human rights like that is not within our purview. I mean, smoking has always been a hot-ticket issue, but you could use any number of other examples, like speeding or other things like that, other

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JENNY FROGNER

dangerous activities that endanger the lives of those around you, and those kinds aren't looked at in the same way.

Kelly: If students voted in favour of it, I would definitely at least take steps into looking at implementing that in terms of lobbying the University, because that's something that's important to us. And I also think that it's important to remember that smokers have the right to smoke, and so we should take that into consideration as well when we're deciding where the boundaries lie.

3 **THE SU has always made lobbying for lower tuition a priority. What would you do differently in this area?**

Power: I don't think we really took the opportunity to lobby the governing policy committee provincially. I think the affordability review sort of tied up a lot of our efforts in that area, so [we should] focus more specifically on the standing policy committee. Secondly, lobby the rural MLAs; I don't think we put enough focus on the amount of power that rural MLAs have when making decisions, and in terms of priorities in the legislature, so making sure that we're out in rural communities and talking to the MLAs there.

German: This one I could probably speak in a bit greater length on because it's something that I've really been looking at seriously. Every year, students advocate for lower tuition, there are rallies, there are things going on to lower tuition, the government knows that we want our tuition lowered. And yet, every year it seems like tuition goes up. This year, the tuition went up again, but students won't incur that cost—the government will pick up that slack. The untoward, though, is that as that gap grows, as the amount that the government is covering grows, the strain on them grows and the consensus is that they won't be covering that cost for very much longer. And so we've been braced for a large tuition hike. I think that we need to start doing things that are bigger than freezes. I think that we need to look at the whole system. Fifty per cent of this province's MLAs are rural because 50 per cent of the population is rural. Those MLAs represent the people—the University has no presence rural—so when we go to the government with our tuition issues, if Ralph Klein feels like his Cabinet will support him in shutting us down, he'll do so every time. What I'm proposing is these rural campaigns. We need to show the people of rural Alberta what we can do for them and what they can do for us. Our goal is a common one. These things have been attempted before, this isn't a new idea, but it hasn't been attempted in the way that I'd like to see it. I'd like to see a large committee formed with students from all the rural communities, and on Thanksgiving, Christmas Holidays,

Easter and all the holidays when kids go home, have a discussion in the hall or in the school gym or wherever in these communities, and I'll go there and the VP (External) will go there with the students and get the word out. It's a common cause, and what's good for this University is good for this province.

Kelly: I would join back with a federal lobbying group, because we have a new government in place and there's already been a motion put forward to reconsider postsecondary education and have it placed as a higher priority. So I see lobbying the federal government as a big thing that we could capitalize on. At the provincial level, we've started a campaign through the Council of Alberta University Students, and I think that while starting petitions and things like that are a good idea, we also need to create more of a stir around it. We used to have little demonstrations and that earned us media; we had people come out just to see us and then we would get to our issues and our problems out and explain why that was a problem. We haven't had that in two years, so now we've lost a lot of that earned media attention. I mean, this year no one knew that there was even a tuition debate going on in Alberta, and that's an important thing they should know about because tuition goes up every year. And we don't have sustained funding from the government for this, so they've covered our tuition for two years in terms of hikes, but if they decide not to next year when they have another hike, that's an 18-19.5 per cent hike that we'll see in one year, and that's huge.

4 **The President is the most visible student politician. What would you do to increase the SU's profile among students?**

Power: This year, as VP (External), I ran the Roll it Back Ralph campaign, and we made more than have events not just in SUB but in other buildings on campus. We held events in CAB, Tory and Education. And as President, I would like to see that each portfolio chooses something that they feel students need to know about and find a way to make that happen: to maybe have tables in different buildings on campus, to create events with different student groups in each faculty, to increase our profile like that.

German: It's all part and parcel with increasing the quality of education and improving the student experience. I think that right now, I don't like when people say the Students' Union. I like when people say the Students' Union. To me, when some people refer to the SU, it carries a connotation of this oppressive dark body, deep in the belly of SUB, and they don't understand it. They don't think it's working for them, necessarily, but working alongside them. I think we

need to look at better ways to garner student opinion. The last few SU surveys have been fairly diffuse, fairly large—the questions have been terse in my opinion, you know, they've been engineered. I think we should be giving students information, telling them what the issues are and asking them what they think. We're not getting to the meat and potatoes of what students want. So, in connecting with the students, it's all part and parcel. I mean, look at the PowerPlant—that's a big example. The SU has, in the last few years, justified it as a service. They've said, "Yeah, we're losing money on the PowerPlant, but we justify it because it's a tangible benefit to students and we can incur that cost because students value this." But the PowerPlant has no reason to be losing money. A couple years ago, when [then-VP (Operations and Finance)] Tyler Botten had the bar revitalization project run, they injected over \$50 000 into the PowerPlant and RATT, and revenues went down exponentially the very next year. Where's the market research? Students weren't asked what they wanted, students weren't told what was going to happen. If you're on Council, sure you know about it, but the students at large didn't have a clue. The PowerPlant was closed off for a little while, and then opened up and they had new shiny bricks and whatever, but the students weren't asked. So my biggest thing in getting closer to the students is to fine-tune all the SU services and businesses to meet the student needs. It's our Students' Union and it's for us to use.

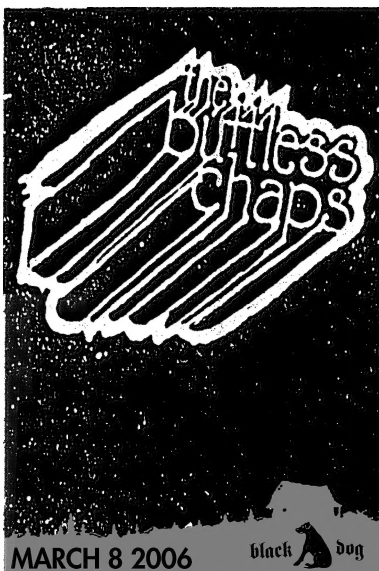
Kelly: One of the things that I want to do is to actually expand services out into faculty areas so that, for example, CAPS tutor and exam registries will be found at your faculty association office. So that you could come to SUB and get it, but we also extend our services beyond the walls of SUB, and I think that would really raise the profile of the Students' Union as a service provider. And then, as a result, we'd get more students interested in what we do, instead of being seen as sort of our own ivory tower upon ivory tower.

5 **Star Wars or Star Trek?**

Power: I have to go with Star Trek, and I'm really glad that this was the question. I grew up on Star Trek; Captain Picard is probably the ultimate captain just because of his diplomacy skills and good looks.

German: Star Trek, because I think that Captain Kirk is an institution.

Kelly: God, that's tough. That's really funny—I really like both of them. I'm going to say Star Trek, because you have the Holodeck, and because Jean-Luc Picard is rad, and because I was accused of being a Vulcan once and I thought that was hilarious—probably for those top three reasons.



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LIBRARIES

Samuel running zero-dollar BoG campaign

JAKE TROUGHTON
 Senior News Editor

The student elected to this position is one of two undergraduates on the University's Board of Governors, along with the Students' Union President. This year, only one candidate is seeking the position: Chris Samuel, a former SU Science councillor and Vice-President (Operations and Finance) and current student ombudsperson, will be facing a yes/no vote.

1 How do you see the role of the Board of Governors especially as differing from the SU president's role on the Board?

I think the primary difference is that the president has access to SU resources. They have their own research department and advocacy department to work on their presentations for them, and the Board of Governors representative has to rely primarily on being able to present their arguments without the benefit of a massive staff structure supporting them. I think the BoG representative and the SU President should work together, because they can share those resources, for one thing, and they can bring differing viewpoints. One is the SU's viewpoint as an institution, and one is the viewpoint from the BoG representative, who is, in theory, supposed to be more representative of the common undergraduates. The BoG representative isn't someone who's paid or working primarily in the SU; they're taking classes, and, in theory, more in touch with everyday students. I think that's important.

2 The annual tuition decision is the highest-profile activity of the Board of Governors. How would you approach it?

At the most recent tuition meeting, a comment was made [by U of A Provost Carl Amrhein] about how the undergraduates on the board weren't representing wealthy students who wanted tuition to go up. I think that's just a ludicrous statement to make; for one, wealthy students don't want tuition to go up, because they're not seeing an increase in quality—in fact, quality is going down. Also, you've got this idea

that there's this significant percentage of students who are wealthy and can tolerate these tuition increases—that's not the case. Most undergraduates are struggling to make ends meet, and they're taking out loans and working extra jobs. Tuition is a problem. So the primary thing that I'm focused on is tackling the myth of the wealthy student, as it is to call it.

3 Besides tuition, what Board of Governors issues do you think are most important to students, and how would you approach them?

One of the main points that I've been campaigning on is giving students full access to information. The way the board works is that a lot of the decisions and tasks are delegated to subcommittees—I believe there are seven, and of those seven, students are denied access to two: the Audit Committee and the Human Resources and Compensation Committee. I find that unacceptable. I can, I suppose, understand why students maybe wouldn't be given a vote on those subcommittees, but to not even be able to attend as observers is, I think, a serious flaw. So that's something that I would work toward: getting students access to, not only information at the board level, but information from the subversive subcommittees that should be available to students.

The Board is also responsible for the overall strategic direction of the University, so you see the board producing long-term plans and strategies for where the University is going to go in the next ten years or so. And one of the things that I think is essential for the BoG representative to do is to make sure that undergraduate education is a top priority as an institution—making sure that at those strategic planning retreats and meetings, the issue of undergraduate education is always being advocated for and always being advanced.

4 What kind of campaign will you be running, given that you're the only candidate?

I love this question. I am running a zero-dollar campaign. In all probability—and I don't mean this to sound arrogant—I'm going to win. I've never



CHRIS SAMUEL

MATT FRIESEN

heard of an unopposed candidate being defeated. In light of that, when I was getting my platform and ideas together, I thought, "Okay, I can spend this student money, or I can spend zero dollars, and I think we're going to end up with the same result, plus or minus a few percentage points." So I decided to save that money. I'm really happy with that, and the students I've talked to are really supportive of that as well. I think that just because the money's there to be spent doesn't mean it needs to be spent. I hope to carry that sort of philosophy with me to the board. I'm classroom speaking, I'm doing forums, and I've written a platform. I'm hosting my website off of the free U of A web space that's available to all students. I've got things together, and I don't want it to come across as me being lazy or me not caring about the election, because that's not true. I wouldn't be running if I didn't care or if I was lazy. I think it's going to be positive. What I hope to do is encourage more candidates who are running unopposed in the future to do the same and save money that way.

5 Star Trek or Star Wars?

I'm going to have to say Star Wars, because I think a Jedi would be much more effective on the Board of Governors than a captain would be. I think the mind tricks would come in useful: "These are not the tuition increases you are looking for."

VPA candidate focused on engaging students

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
 News Staff

This year, only one candidate is running to be the Students' Union's new Vice-President (Academic): current Associate Vice-President (Academic) Amanda Henry.

1 What do you think are the most pressing concerns regarding quality of undergraduate education?

I would have to say that engaging students with Students' Union advocacy efforts, making sure students are well-informed about the services available to them, both from the SU and the University, is the big one. The others are making sure ongoing academic issues, like social space, classroom sizes, quality of teaching, English language proficiency for students, graduate students and professors [are dealt with]. Those general kinds of long-term initiatives would be the most important.

2 How do you think the University should strike a balance between research and teaching?

I think that teaching should be the University's prime concern because we're a teaching institution. But by the same token, research benefits more than just the students. It's an intricate part of the wider community that the University resides in, so there still has to be emphasis on it, with the understanding that the emphasis on teaching isn't lost.

3 Periodically, there's talk of reducing or modifying English requirements for first-year students. What, if any, changes do you think should be made?

I think that writing proficiency should be more important in English requirements than reading proficiency. A lot of students have very, very strong reading comprehension skills, but the actual mechanics of writing aren't addressed as succinctly as they need to be at the University.

4 What kind of campaign will you run given that you're the only candidate?

A cheaper one than I would otherwise. I'm sure the Gateway will have all kinds of fun with my posters, but I



AMANDA HENRY

MATT FRIESEN

wanted to try and stay on a joke [candidate's] budget. [Editor's note: the SU provides joke candidates with \$250 to run a campaign, as opposed to \$500 for regular candidates.]

5 Star Wars or Star Trek?

Star Wars all the way, because Chewbacca is the best thing that ever happened to movie costuming.

Cartoon of Jesus and Mohammed kissing stirs controversy at U of T

RIHANNA MANEK
The Varsity

TORONTO (CUP)—As editors of Victoria University's student paper, the *Strand*, defend their pre-reading week decision to publish an editorial cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed and Jesus kissing, representatives of the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) are calling on administrators and students to take action.

"There's responsibility along with free speech," said Safiyah Ally, MSA communications director. "It reflects a lack of understanding of issues on campus, and people want us to take a more aggressive stance."

Victoria University is a non-denominational arts and science college at the University of Toronto.

"I haven't had many times where people came into my office and just started crying," said U of T's Students' Union President Paul Bretscher in the aftermath of the publication.

Messages sent out to the MSA's e-mail list this week urged members to express their disapproval of the cartoon's publication by writing letters both to the *Strand* and to administration, but also expressed some appreciation toward the administration for its commitment to organizing several educational initiatives on

Sunday.

However, Ally said many students are still frustrated.

"There is a deep sense of hurt, and there is also anger," said Ally. "Muslims on campus feel that their faith is not being taken seriously. They feel marginalized and victimized; they feel that they have lost their voice. Someone even posted the cartoon on the MSA door."

Meanwhile, editors of the *Strand* attempted to clear the air over the issue of responsibility.

"I didn't personally make, or even have a great deal of influence over, the decision to publish the cartoon," said Nick Ragaz, managing editor of the *Strand*. "Some media take a much less subtle view of Islam than the *Strand*. We didn't set out to hurt or attack anyone. We were only fulfilling our responsibility as a paper."

"It was a full editorial board decision," said Strand Co-Editor-in-Chief Karen Whaley. When asked if she was still happy that they printed it, she replied, "In my personal opinion, absolutely."

The February issue of the paper featured a cartoon of Jesus and Prophet Muhammad entering a "Tunnel of Tolerance" together. The cartoon was originally commissioned by U of T's the *Varsity*, but its editors decided after

it was submitted not to publish it.

Although it has received much criticism and negative response, Victoria University President P W Gooch supported the *Strand*'s decision to "inform and invoke discussion."

"We can't live by religious taboos," said Ragaz. "I respect the faith of a great deal, but people should be capable of drawing their own conclusions. Students' Administrative Council accused us of attacking Muslims on campus, and that accusation is hard to take since that's not what we were out to accomplish."

On Ragaz's personal website, his mission statement reads, "We believe that personal individual freedom can be maintained only by living with a sense of civic responsibility, compassion, and moral justice."

When the cartoon was originally published, the MSA sent out an official statement to their members condemning its publication.

"When I saw it, I felt like crying," said Ally. "There is a great deal of ignorance on campus—we don't have enough engagement with other groups, and that's unfortunate. We're not against free speech. This cartoon doesn't violate policy, but it does not create an environment where civil discourse can thrive, and within these constraints, it limits free speech."

Lakehead wireless ban draws criticism

JENNIFER CUDMORE
The Argus

THUNDER BAY, ON (CUP)—Current electronic trends are moving more and more towards accommodating wireless devices, but Lakehead University in Thunder Bay is beating against the current.

The school has seen a recent rash of publicity thanks to University President Dr Fred Gilbert's decision to ban access to wireless Internet on most of the campus.

"There will not be wireless networks while I'm President of the University, except in circumstances where there is no other alternative," he said. "Until such time that there's adequate proof that there's not a health risk involved with wireless networks, there will be no wireless networks."

Gilbert's main concerns regarding health deal with the electromagnetic fields (EMF) that are emitted from the wireless hotspots. His background in

biology prompted concerns that the impact of EMFs on people, particularly young people who are still developing, may cause harm.

While there's still no concrete evidence and studies are still underway, Gilbert isn't willing to take the risk. He likens knowledge regarding effects of EMFs to the attitude about cigarettes' effects on health before studies were done. He believes the technology's too new to really have a good understanding about what long-term effects could be.

Lakehead University Students' Union President Adam Krupper said was unsure about the decision saying "students are irritated" by Gilbert's decision.

"They want wireless capabilities," he said. "They want to be able to do work where they feel most effective."

"If it causes cancer, it'd be something to worry about," he added. "But then again, Lakehead still uses pesticides."

University and college campuses around the country are moving towards providing wireless Internet service, allowing students to access it just about anywhere on campus.

"Considering this is a University known for its great use of technology, it's kind of bad that we can't get wi-fi," Krupper told Reuters.

Reuters also quoted the director of consumer and clinical radiation protection at the federal health department, Robert Bradley.

"If you look at the body of science, we're confident that there is no demonstrable health effect or effects from wireless technology," Bradley said.

The decision by the President has become a source of ridicule among many Internet users. The popular website, www.fark.com, which rates news stories from around the world and provides a forum for people to comment and discuss, has categorized the story as "Dumbass."

U of M student sent controversial cartoon, threat

TESSA VANDERHART
CUP Central Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Michael Kalo is a Jewish Law student: far from the expected target of anti-Muslim racism. But when he opened his mailbox last week, Kalo found an anonymous letter containing threats and one of the controversial cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed that was printed in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* last month.

Kalo, a 38-year-old Israeli citizen who moved to Canada two and a half years ago, said he still feels discriminated against. His grandparents moved to Israel from Iraq, and he has darker skin than many Israelis, he said.

Kalo said the letter confirmed what he perceived to be racist attitudes directed toward him in the faculty.

The text of the letter went even

further, suggesting that he had done something wrong. It read:

"Michael:

"Why do you have to look and behave like that?

"Do you want us to send you back where you came from?"

"You do not belong in our Faculty!"

"Don't say we didn't warn you..."

At the bottom of the letter is perhaps the most inflammatory cartoon of the Prophet Mohammed that was published, depicting the Prophet wearing a bomb for a turban.

"I'm not a terrorist; I've never carried a bomb," said Kalo. "But if this is how I look to others, I'm offended. I'm terribly offended."

Lorna Turnbull, the associate dean of the Faculty of Law, distributed a letter to all Law students on 16 February, informing students that the mailboxes had been used for the distribution of

inappropriate material.

Turnbull said she had received numerous calls from the media regarding the legitimacy of Kalo's complaints, and said she didn't think there's a pervasive problem.

"I don't think it's an issue in the faculty; we're pretty open. That's the nature of a law school, actually," Turnbull said. "A lot of exchange and discussion goes on inside the classroom, and outside of the classroom, as well."

She added that increasing diversity in the faculty is a major concern of the University, and airing different viewpoints is a priority, though sometimes it means that issues like this one will come up.

"At the end of the day, some of these turn out to be serious and warrant the serious treatment; some turn out to be not so serious after all," she said.

Comments attributed to me in the February 28th 2006, edition of the *Gateway* implied that the settlement of the Travel CUTS litigation included an acknowledgement that the plaintiffs were wronged as a result of the transfer of the assets of AOSC.

In fact, the settlement contained no acknowledgment of wrongdoing on either side, and no admission of liability by the plaintiffs or defendants.

Thank you,
Graham Lettner, Students' Union President

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Invasive ads an insult to news readership

I'M NOT USED TO PAYING much attention to Dose magazine, so when I first saw the issue for the week-end of 17 February with a Kokanee ad slipped into a box on Whyte, I thought nothing of it. When I saw a second and third box with the same ad covering the front page, I thought, "Damn, those Kokanee fellows are persistent." But, by the time I passed a few more Dose boxes—they really are everywhere—I began to notice a sinister trend. Strange, how the ad was always at the same angle on the page. I opened the box and confirmed my worst fears; the Kokanee advertisement was, in fact, printed on the front page. Complete with a sexy drop-shadow. I don't mean to sound alarmist, but holy fuck.

By no means is Dose the keystone of journalistic integrity, but something is very, very wrong here. This gives the unmistakable message that, to Dose, a single advertisement is more important, more worthy of a reader's time, than any copy or art the issue contains. Today's top story: Kokanee releases new set of beer cans.

Fortunately, Dose provided a disclaimer by way of explanation. "When an advertiser like Kokanee wants to make a splash with our readers, we're more than happy to provide them with some prime real estate to do so. In return, they pay us a lot of money for that privilege, and, as always, we pass the savings on to you." Smarmy, yes, but fair. At least they're upfront about what their reader's respect is worth. Somehow, though, I think if I were the artist whose work was trashed in favour of Kokanee's "exciting" new series of beer cans I'd be a bit miffed. When a newspaper sells its front page to a beer company, it is a powerful statement about values.

I'm sure most half-sentient readers could tell the difference between beer ads and actual news. Consider, though, the time that Dose in Ontario sold an issue's entire colour section to Bell, which was promoting a new line of cell phones. Now, most readers probably didn't even know it was an advertisement. When the line is blurred between advertisement and content, this is a blatant disservice to the reader.

And the sports section of Monday's *Edmonton Journal* takes this from anomalously to disturbing trend by placing a watermark ad for a new razor behind the text of their regular sports content.

In response to all of this, we must ask what kind of service Canadians expect from the media. Why do we find this infiltration so repulsive? It may be a leap to claim that journalism is an essential service like health care or education, but newspapers are nonetheless crucial to a functioning democracy. Once editorial decisions lay in the hands of board directors who keep both eyes on the bottom line, press freedom is, as Bush likes to say, in danger. I may be young, and I may be idealistic, but when ad revenue becomes the point of print media, I start looking for another profession.

MATT FREEMER
Photo Editor

Agile criminal minds

LIONEL TATE, A FLORIDA MAN famous for being the youngest person ever to receive a life sentence in the United States, convicted for the killing of a six-year-old girl, is once again looking at a lengthy prison term.

His latest crime, which could score him up to 30 years, was an attempted robbery—from a pizza delivery boy. There's a general trend among those who spend time in federal penitentiaries: they tend to commit increasingly serious crimes. For Tate, this could mean a few things. Prison reforms may have partially rehabilitated him, so he's now just threatening to kill, instead of actually doing it. Prison reforms may have interrupted the informal criminal training system, and Tate wasn't taught how to properly rob people. Or, of course, he could just be an idiot. Pizza boys carry what, \$30? We'll leave it to you to decide.

TIM PEPPIN
Opinion Editor

LETTERS

I love PAC, and you should, too

I'm an evangelical PAC thumper. I don't pay for late night infomercials, as I'm simply a student who sits in the same classes you do, with a passion for physical activity on campus. I've volunteered for the "PAC Yes" campaign because I feel we have a chance to make a difference on this campus. We can raise our own fees and see demonstrable gains in a beautiful, functional PAC to replace the inadequate current facilities. We can vote for future students to spend \$40 per year funding a solid proposal to improve their lives on campus.

Alternately, we can simply sit on our butts in Tory and allow the University Administration to raise tuition every year with no student support. We have the opportunity to do it ourselves and see progress. We can embrace President Indira Samarasekera's vision of building a world-class university. I'll be standing on the pulpit preaching the virtues of PAC as fellow students did in 1926 to fund the first covered ice surface in Western North America with \$5 per year. Come find me on campus and engage in debate.

PATRICK STRATTON
Art III

Don't cheapen Olympic victories, Collum

I feel that it is necessary to respond to the article "Canuck paraphernalia under the ice is underhanded" (28 February), as I find it absolutely absurd to accuse the Canadian Olympic team of cheating.

Let's get something straight here: our speed skaters' performance at the Olympics doesn't depend on some token buried under the ice. Yes, I admit that at the end of those races, it's a psychological boost, but having something under the ice doesn't give us an unfair advantage. Any country could have any sort of good luck charm with their coach, family or fans in the stands. To take away, even for a moment, the victory of our athletes, and to be embarrassed about being Canadian shocks me.

Another thing pride with embarrassment isn't pride at all. It's just embarrassment. As for the other countries, although it's a typical stereotype of Canadians to have a special sort of view of Americans, let's not grab at straw here. Be proud of the Canadian achievements, and let's never doubt the skill, performance and dedication of our athletes. See you in 2010!

DEREK VOLKER
Art III

Your loose change no solution to the problem

In regards to Amanda Termeer's 28 February article, "Do you want to change the world? Start by changing yourself," I'm in favour of social responsibility and helping people as much as the next guy, but you can't expect people to swallow that saccharinous bullshit you wrote about



"becoming better people."

For example, I don't believe the "So what if he buys a drink?" strategy is the best way to approach alcoholism. You say that buying him a drink will brighten his day. Did you ever stop to think that drinking is what's keeping him on the street and will eventually kill him? But I guess "better people" don't think about such things, only insensitive assholes like me think it's a good idea to support building projects for Katrina-devastated regions, or feed starving children in Africa by an international organization. I guess I'd be a good guy if I showed the food into their mouths in person.

And hey, you really can make a difference locally. Lots of people donated their Ralph money to charitable organizations, but I suppose an enlightened person would give it to an impoverished person to spend on... whatever. I'm not saying that these people are sub-intelligent or will never be capable of helping themselves, but if you really want to make a long-term positive impact on somebody's life, then throwing a couple of quarters at them and patting yourself on the back is not the way to go.

CHRIS HILL
Art III

Giving change no better than giving to charity, Termeer

Ms Termeer, like many others, your heart is in the right place. However, your wallet is not (Re: "Do you want to change the world? Start by changing yourself" 28 February).

You state that many people send money to said charities because they "thrive on the emotional high they get from being involved." How is this any different than tossing a toonie to an individual on Jasper so he can buy another drink? Offering money to make someone's day better creates a much graver problem—dependency. That money doesn't help, it makes them worse

off, dependent on handouts that make them even less inclined to get out of the gutter. Why not think this is a solution is simply beyond me.

As we've seen in the past, throwing money at problems isn't an answer. That loose change you're so adamant about buying that homeless guy a drink with may be better spent on some sort of social program, or maybe a shelter—maybe even a sandwich. Anything is better than supporting a problem that could have put them there in the first place. However, this might mean supporting those charities you don't seem to endorse.

That being said, if you think handing a beggar money to better his day is helping, you're no better than those who contribute to charities and suffer from the same emotional highs. Such actions aren't bettering ourselves, they're putting others in a worse state of being.

For some reason these emotional highs don't bother me nearly as much as watching someone slowly kill themselves with alcohol or drugs that they bought with money given to them by generous patrons on Whyte Ave. Just because you like to feel like a hero by hugging random people on the street and fueling alcoholics' addictions with change doesn't make the rest of us bad people. It just means we all have our own way of approaching social problems.

JOHN CAMPOCHI
Political Science IV

Don't make me punch you, David Berry

OK, David Berry, your latest headache-inducing article has finally pushed me to the breaking point (Re: "I have feelings—a sensitive man's lament" 28 February).

I don't want it to come to this. I really don't. Somewhere in that mess you make some sarcastic point about how we've missed the higher meanings and subtleties of your articles all this time, in what

I assume is an acknowledgment of your ineptitude as an opinion writer.

However, I've picked up on the real hidden message from day one: "Send me hate mail." There could be no other motivation for churning out such ridiculously shit-tacular opinion pieces week after week. So, I've restrained myself from caving, and giving you the attention you seem to so desperately crave. This despite the ever-increasing suckitude of the Gateway, which I theorize is directly related to your movement up the editorial food chain.

However, when a friend of mine looked up after reading your article today and remarked "I kinda want to punch this guy in the face," I realized that some measures had to be taken. I want to make this perfectly clear to everyone—I am not in any way related to David Berry. I couldn't bear to live with even the slightest possibility that someone might hear my name and think, "I wonder if he's the brother/cousin/father of that dipshit from the Gateway."

It's a shame that you've sullied the Berry name to such a degree that I have to make this clarification, but one can never be too careful. I mean, someone might give me an undeserved punch to the face. Or worse yet, some nice girl might decide to sleep with me simply due to my last name. Then I'd really have to punch you.

RYAN BERRY
Engineering IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter that defames, calumniates, or otherwise hurts in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

Sometimes gutter trash is gutter trash Reprints serve no purpose

Despite what their mothers may think, lots of people aren't 'basically good'



DERREK GREBSKI

You know, since I finished university and moved on to the big, bad world out there, I've had some time to think. To think about people, that is. People, I've discovered, absolutely love to be viewed as victims of something, and to view others in the same light. Consider, for example, what happens when some drug-addled cretin finally meets his or her merciful fate, and is killed in a ditch or scummy bar somewhere.

One doesn't have to be a clairvoyant to guess what happens next. Inevitably, and despite the fact that the brand new corpse was nothing but a drain on society during its lifetime, dewey-eyed claims will rain from the sky explaining how this human was "basically good," and did nothing to deserve such an undignified end.

So, here's the scoop: you can abuse your family and friends, suckle at the teat of society through your entire, pathetic life while offering nothing in return, put yourself in ridiculous danger time after time, snuff at the endless cavalcade of social programs intended to drag you out of your gutter, and still be considered "basically good." Remember, you heard it here first, kids.

Yet, the same process is repeated endlessly in our touchy-feely Western media. Young Jimmy, having made his cigarette money by breaking into

cars throughout his meaningless life, finally screws the wrong guy in a drug deal of some kind, and winds up face-down on a snowy winter's morn outside the city.

Next thing you know, I am being clobbered by estranged relatives on my TV who expect me to believe that he was just an innocent soul who was one break away from being the best damned jazz clarinet player this side of Winnipeg.

... I understand that we live in the 21st century, and telling harsh truths isn't allowed, but don't expect me to weep when yet another member of the Junior Achievement Society is killed in a hail of gunfire ...

Get lost. A trained pigeon could find a decent job in the booming Alberta economy, and I have personally seen more than one of these turnips stop showing up for work because it meant, you know, getting up in the morning. A condo renovation contractor I know literally can't keep employees at \$13 an hour. Education or experience required: zero.

But, as you recall, poor Jimmy was abandoned by society and was basically a good guy, despite having been appar-

ently thrilled to be a leech through his short lifetime. What a sad, sad story.

As hip as it is to be a friend to the destitute while in school, I think it's pretty remarkable to watch as people seem to change their tune once it's all over and the gruelling stagger through the working world sets in. I noticed this today as I sat in brutal rush-hour traffic on the way home from my job, and the omnipresent teenaged hobo with his plaintive cardboard sign was met with callous stares from those who are just fed up with paying him to do nothing. The guy didn't make a nickel.

So, quit pissing in my ears and telling me that it's raining. I understand that we live in the 21st century, and telling harsh truths isn't allowed, but don't expect me to weep when yet another member of the Junior Achievement Society is killed in a hail of gunfire, because all it really means is that my world is a little safer, and that's pretty good news. You can call it a hunch, but I doubt that he gave a flying shit about me, and I'm as pleased as punch to return the sentiment.

Oh, no, let me guess—what an asshole I am for adopting such a disconnected stance toward my fellow man. Are we not, after all, equal?

Nope. I'll be up at 6:30am tomorrow so that I can engage in my daily commute and then suck back coffee to stay awake while I bash through another day of work, which will never change until I'm old and decrepit. He, on the other hand, will impute his teenage girlfriend and then lounge around, maybe playing some video games, until it's dark enough to rip someone off. I dare to dream.



TIM PEPPIN

The defence usually trotted out by publications that have printed images of Mohammed is that, under the banners of freedom of speech and the press, they have the right to do so. Well and good. That's entirely correct. In a largely free and largely secular democracy, they do have the right to publish sacrilegious images, irrespective of the wishes or beliefs of others. However, if they're to exercise that right—and exercise it under the full knowledge that it will cause social unrest, individual angst, and political, religious and ideological division—it must be assumed that they have a good reason for doing so, some specific, concrete end they hope to achieve.

In this case, what might the end be? Again, the usual line is that it's a symbolic gesture, representative of, and reaffirming our right to, freedom of speech. If this is the case, we must ask if our hold on freedom of speech was really so tenuous that it was worth insulting billions of people to prove that it still exists. If the purpose of the republication of these images was simply to assert our authority, to prove that we have the right to do so, we've shown ourselves to be acting through vanity, tastelessness and insecurity—hardly the lofty motives we should expect.

Some have claimed that the images should be reprinted in newspapers because they're part of the news—that

there's an obligation to satisfy the curiosity of the readership. But if this were true, we should also be printing graphic images of murders, accidents and tragedies. The truth is, we've long since accepted that there are images that shouldn't be published because they're tasteless or inflammatory, and because, in a very real sense, they add nothing to a story—is reprinting an image of Mohammed with a bomb in place of his turban functionally different from explaining, in text, that such an image exists? I say no.

Suppose that a particularly well-designed, infectious and damaging computer virus were to begin spreading. Would we consider it proper for news publications, either because they had the right, or to satisfy the curiosity of the public, to reproduce in their pages the code for that virus? They'd have every right—our laws only forbid the release of such a virus into networks with deliberate malicious intent—but given the obvious damage that would inevitably be caused, and the utter lack of meaningful gain, it would be a foolish and disgraceful decision.

The real reason that these cartoons have been republished seems to be either an unstated desire to assert the dominance of our western culture and secular ideology, or to make a shameless play for publicity—neither of which is sufficiently compelling to justify the harm that's been caused. It's not enough as journalists to proclaim the right to free speech—we also have an obligation to examine the consequences of our decisions and to weigh them against what's gained. In this case we achieved nothing while losing much, and the papers responsible have served neither their readers nor their freedom.

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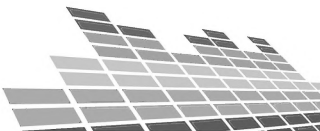
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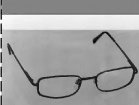
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The law making a martyr of Irving

Despite his claimed reforms, Irving was still convicted—but was this just?



PATRICK ROSS

Though most people view Adolf Hitler's systematic murder of six million people as the historical embodiment of man's greatest act of inhumanity, there are those who deny it ever happened—or, worse still, who celebrate it.

To combat those who would seek to degrade the memory of the Holocaust, various countries have passed laws criminalizing Holocaust denial. Over the years, many people have been charged and convicted under these laws; most recently, British historian David Irving has been sentenced to three years (of a maximum ten) in prison by an Austrian court.

These charges were based upon speeches he gave in Austria concerning his controversial "flagship" book, *Hitler's War*, in which he made controversial claims about the Holocaust.

Ever since, Holocaust denial is a spectre that has haunted Irving and his career. In 2000, he unsuccessfully sued Holocaust historian Deborah Libstedt for libel. The judge in the case called him a racist and a Holocaust denier.

However, defining Irving as a Holocaust denier may be more problematic than his critics would care to admit. Typical dyed-in-the-wool Holocaust deniers tend to hold to their

beliefs on the witness stand. Irving, however, couldn't distance himself far enough from them.

"I made a mistake when I said there were no gas chambers at Auschwitz," Irving admitted. "I deny that I am a Holocaust denier ... in no way did I deny the killings of millions of people by the Nazis."

... reasonable doubt tells us that if Irving admits he has made a mistake and has changed his opinion, it's at least possible that he has.

Irving did, however, challenge some of the details associated with the Holocaust. He had (at one point) dismissed the existence of gas chambers at Hitler's most infamous death camp as a "fairy tale"—even going as far as to suggest they had been built after the war ended. He suggested only 30 000 Jews were killed at Auschwitz (the accepted number is 1.5 million). And, in continuing revisions of *Hitler's War*, Irving deflected more and more responsibility away from Adolf Hitler.

Irving has claimed that he based his research strictly on primary sources, ignoring anything previously written about the Holocaust. He credits his revelation regarding the falsity of his claims to his discovery of papers belonging to Nazi Adolph Eichmann, and insists that, ever since, he's been a changed man.

Unfortunately for Irving, he was able to convince neither an eight-person jury nor Austrian judge Peter Liebetrau, who was leery of Irving's true intentions, saying, "The court did not consider the defendant to have legitimately changed his mind. The regret he showed was considered to be mere lip service to the law."

It may be perfectly understandable that, in such a case, the presiding judge may be suspicious regarding the defendant's testimony. However, cynicism is not an underlying principle of criminal justice in any democratic society—reasonable doubt is.

In a case like this, which ultimately concerns the academic work of a scholar, reasonable doubt tells us that if Irving admits he has made a mistake and has changed his opinion, it's at least possible that he has. Even though he may be guilty under the letter of the law—which forbids the denial, diminishment, approval or excusal of the Holocaust, or any other crime against humanity—the integrity of the law is still at stake.

All this case may have accomplished is to give anti-Holocaust denial laws, which are a key weapon in the fight against neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic hate mongers, a black eye. In David Irving, true Holocaust deniers may have finally found the martyr they couldn't find in individuals like Ernst Zundel.

In the end, this may be the greatest misfortune to be piled upon Irving. His work has cost him his reputation and his freedom, and it has also transformed him into a symbol for a cause he claims he doesn't believe in.

Certainly, few things could be worse than that.

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Butt-wipes, keepers and human dignity



JAMES
STORRIE

Ingenuity truly comes in all metaphorical stripes and shades. In a world such as ours, where every few years an invention like the laptop, cell phone or iPod can radically change our lifestyles, it can be easy to get caught up in a technophilia of sorts. But let us stop, for a moment, to ponder the potential impact posed by two very low-tech offerings: the butt-wipe and the keeper.

The butt-wipe is the most reasonable place to begin, because the story of the butt-wipe is a happy one. I hope you will forgive the vulgarity of the subject matter, but the invention of the butt-wipe really is a monumental step forward in poo management. What is a butt-wipe, and how does it differ from the usual toilet paper? The most obvious difference would of course be that it is wet. Packaged individually or in airtight plastic tubs, the butt-wipe is generally soaked to the brim with a gentle cleanser, and perhaps a soothing menthol or aloe vera; these are light-years beyond the standard Keg wetnap, which is a good thing. My experience has shown that Keg wetnaps are a surprisingly poor toilet paper substitute.

Why would one use a butt-wipe, when toilet and tissue paper is everywhere? That is a naïve and mindless question, and if you just asked it, you are naïve and mindless, stupid. Compare the tissue paper to the handkerchief. As we all know, handkerchiefs are used by rich people and, ergo, as better than toilet paper as the rich are than us, which is to say lots better. It is, of course, inconvenient and smelly to carry around a wash-

"Ultimately the butt-wipe issue comes down to our superiority over babies ... No baby deserves better than you. These loud, ugly, smelly and barely sentient little skin-bags barely deserve the loving attention of a responsible parent, let alone to show you up in anal maintenance."

cloth specifically for the post-poop, which partially explains the genius of modern butt-wipes, crafted as they are from the finest disposable synthetics. Don't buy the cotton butt-wipes, of course. You can't flush them.

Ultimately the butt-wipe issue comes down to our superiority over babies. It is likely that those of you who have purchased butt-wipes in the past have purchased them not for wiping yourself, but for wiping the delicate skin of a child while changing its diaper. No baby deserves better than you. These loud, ugly, smelly and barely sentient little skin-bags barely deserve the loving attention of a responsible parent, let alone to show you up in anal maintenance. It is a prime function of human existence to stand up for one's own dignity, and I can think of no more dignified way to end a successful toilet experience than with a high-quality sanitary personal wipe.

We should be wary, though, as not all inventions produce such dignified results. The keeper, unfortunately, is one of the many that fail to deliver. The concept of a butt-wipe is simple, and I am sure requires no graphic explanation, but as the keeper is somewhat esoteric, I will explain. Unlike a tampon or pad which absorbs, or maybe blocks, the flow of menstrual fluid—who knows how all this vaginal stuff works, really—the keeper is a small reusable cup that holds the waste until it can be emptied. I've tried up until this point to avoid profanity, but there's really no other way to say it: this is fucking vile.

Far be it for me to dictate the rules

of vaginal integrity, and I'd hate to be viewed in the same camp as those creepy old men with the pro-life tables, but something must be said. There is a justifiable taboo surrounding human waste, and it is justifiable because human waste is totally, 100 per cent gross. If there were no impetus to distance oneself from outie-fluids, we'd all be wearing colostomy bags and urethral catheters, nibbling double-dipped chips and lapping up cups of spit while people got married to their dogs in the background.

I don't know about you, but this is not a vision of the future I find attractive! The decomposition of the very fabric of society is what this infringement of human dignity entails. Doesn't the phrase "banality of evil" mean anything to people these days? Don't people realize that the use of pads and tampons is the only thing that has freed us from the biblical covenant to stone menstrual commuters?

The fundamental difference between the majestic butt-wipe and the monstrous keeper is one of elegance and grace. Such worldly concerns as toxic shock syndrome and environmental damage should never mar issues as essential to the human experience as those of the nether regions, and ultimately, this is why the butt-wipe will reign superior while the keeper will fade into the annals of history. Still, I would encourage each and every one of us to take a stance, to go out into the world and support the inherent dignity of human existence. Go out and buy some butt-wipes.

Valid only at Whyte Ave. (8 104th Street), 433-3636.

Students' Union Employment Opportunities



TERMS OF OFFICE: 1 MAY 2006 TO 30 APRIL 2007 (IN MOST CASES)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, 13 MARCH, 2006, 5:00 PM NO EXCEPTIONS
SUBMIT COMPLETE PACKAGE TO 2-900 SUB

APPLICATION FORMS: AVAILABLE AT SU RECEPTION DESK 2-900 SUB, AND SUB, HUB, CAB, ETLIC INFO
BOOTHES AND FACULTY ASSOCIATION OFFICES OR ONLINE AT WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA.

Please note use of distinct application for speaker position.

important instructions

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applies, however ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.
- Positions subject to Council ratification and signing of employment contract.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

Reports to the VP Academic. Assists and reports on various academic issues – coordinating projects related to academic affairs. Represent the VP Academic and serve as the resource person for the AAB, GFCSC and student reps on University committees. This position requires a minimum of 20 hours per week in office time.

Remuneration: \$1182/month

For further information contact the VP Academic at 492-4643

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 23, after 5:00 pm.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Reports to the VP External. Assists with organization of on and off-campus events designed to introduce members of the community and prospective students to the Students' Union and the U of A. Minimum of 20 hours per week in office time required.

Remuneration: \$1182/month

For further information contact the VP External 492-4643

Interviews scheduled for Friday, March 24, after 5:00 pm.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

Reports to the VP Student Life. Assists with the programming, events and the volunteer management components of the Student Life portfolio as well as other duties. Minimum of 20 hours per week in office time required.

Remuneration: \$51182/month

For further information contact the VP Student Life at 492-4643

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 30, after 5:00 pm.

SPEAKER OF STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Reports to Students' Council. Chairs all meetings of Students' Council in accordance with Roberts' Rules of Order and the Standing Orders of Students' Council.

Remuneration: \$140.00/meeting

Interviews scheduled for date to be yet determined.

APPLICATIONS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE MADE ON THE SEPERATE APPLICATION TITLED "SPEAKER APPLICATION".

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Reports to Students' Council and oversees all electoral logistics. Must be familiar with election process and bylaws. Excellent project management skills are required to succeed in this position.

Remuneration: \$4032.00 flat fee

For further information contact the Steve Kirkham, steve.kirkham@ualberta.ca

Interviews scheduled for date to be yet determined

ECOS (ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION OFFICE OF STUDENTS) DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. The Director of ECOS is responsible for researching, developing and implementing environmental programs for the Students' Union on Campus.

Remuneration: \$1400/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 23, after 5:00 pm.

UNIVERSITY POLICY & INFORMATION OFFICER

Reports to the VP Academic. Provides background and information relating to university policy and academic issues

Remuneration: \$1182/month

For further information contact the VP Academic at 492-4236

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 23, after 7:00 pm.

CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

OMBUD SERVICE DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Must possess strong listening skills and be an effective mediator. Must be familiar with University and Students' Union grievance and appeal procedures, and will represent and advise students on such matters.

Remuneration: \$1420/month

Term: This position requires a two-year commitment.

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, after 5:00 pm.

SAFEWALK DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Work with other units on campus to improve and promote safety. Excellent opportunity to develop volunteer management and administrative skills.

Remuneration: \$1450/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 23, after 7:00 pm.

STUDENT DISTRESS CENTRE DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. In conjunction with the Distress Line, offers peer counseling, crisis intervention and information/referral services to the campus community. Must have at least one year of comparable peer-counseling experience.

Remuneration: \$1450/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Friday, March 24, starting after 7:00 pm.

STUDENT GROUP SERVICES DIRECTOR*

Reports to the Manager Student Services. Organize and provide support to a diverse array of student groups as the Director of Student Groups. Provide administration and support to these groups.

Remuneration: \$1400/month

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Friday, March 24, starting after 5:00 pm.

***ALL DIRECTOR'S POSITIONS ARE 30 HOURS PER WEEK**

Volunteer Opportunities Boards & Committees



TERMS OF OFFICE: 1 MAY 2006 TO 30 APRIL 2007 (IN MOST CASES)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, 13 MARCH, 2006, 5:00 PM NO EXCEPTIONS

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Please note use of distinct application for speaker position.

Important instructions

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applies, however ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.
- Positions subject to Council ratification and signing of employment contract.

STUDENTS' UNION BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC RELATIONS GROUP

- Participate in activities raising student awareness of academic issues
 - Assists and advises the Vice-President Academic on academic issues.
 - Participates in workshops & seminars to improve teaching on campus
 - Deals with activities relating to student awareness of academic issues
- For further information contact the VP Academic Mat Johnson at 492-4236*
Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, after 5:00 pm.

ADVOCACY ADVISORY BOARD

- Assists in creating advocacy events
 - Deals with activities relating to advocacy on the U of A campus relating to provincial, municipal & federal issues affecting students
 - Assists and advises the Vice President External in implementing & creating advocacy campaigns
- For further information contact VP External Sam Power at 492-4236*
Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 6, after @ 7:00 PM.

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

- Makes recommendations regarding SU entertainment, planning & implementation
 - Major events-WOW & Antifreeze
 - Assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life
- For further information contact VP Student Life Justin Kehoe at 492-4236*
Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 6, after 7:00 PM

STUDENT LIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Provides input on non-academic issues on campus
 - Provides input on Student Services Issues
 - Major events WOW & Antifreeze
 - Assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life
- For further information contact VP Student Life Justin Kehoe at 492-4236*
Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 6, after 5:00 PM

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Assists and advises the Associate Vice President External
 - Creates activities connecting the Students' Union & U of A students with the greater Edmonton community
- For further information contact the VP External Sam Power at 492-4236*
Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 6, after 5:00 pm.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

- Selects annual SU award winners
- Involved in numerous aspects of planning annual awards night
- Can climate, amend & establish annual awards

REVOLUTIONARY SPEAKERS SERIES

- Assists in selecting the speakers each year for the RSS program
 - Assists in marketing & communication of the speakers & series
- For further information contact the VP External Sam Power at 492-4236*
Interviews scheduled for Friday, April 7, after 7:30 pm.

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Requires 1 undergraduate student
 - To recommend policy and serve as the focal point for consideration of policy issues in the University community
- MEETS:** At the call of the Chair

ONECARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Requires 1 undergraduate student to provide valuable feedback and guidance on all aspects of the current and future OneCard operations.
- MEETS:** At the call of the Chair
For further information on Standing Committees contact the VP Academic Mat Johnson at 492-4236.
Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, after 7:00 pm.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SENATE

- Requires 4 undergraduate students appointed by the Students' Union
 - The Senate's responsibility is to inquire into any matter that may enhance the image of the University and act as a link between the University and the public. The Senate may also authorize the conferring of Honorary Degrees.
- MEETS:** Four times yearly
For further information contact the VP External Sam Power at 492-4236
Interviews scheduled for Friday, April 7, after 5:00 pm.

The Sidetrack Café's moving up, moving out

Local music hot spot is shutting the doors on its 25-year-old location. Fortunately for customers, it's only moving a few blocks away



AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

"Moving is a fact of life," says the Sidetrack Café's managing partner Brent Oliver, his voice sounding both relieved and sentimental. While some may categorize moving as either the high point or low point in their lives, Oliver can't exactly pinpoint his feelings on the Sidetrack's big change of address. On the one hand, Oliver is ecstatic about no longer needing a full-time maintenance guy to keep the room from falling apart, but considering the fact that many of his finest memories have come out of the place, saying goodbye to his old friend isn't going to be easy.

Some have been quick to declare that the Sidetrack is closing down—a somewhat common misconception—or at the very least treating the situation as the end of an era, but from Oliver's perspective, the public has misunderstood the whole situation by viewing it as a melancholy and depressing state of affairs. After all, the Sidetrack is only hauling ass from its location on 10333-112 Street to 10238-104 Street, and according to Oliver, it's the best thing that could've happened to the venue. He believes the Sidetrack—minus the instability of its lease and the numerous efficiency problems—has grown up and is ready to move on.

"The [current] building is just so ineffective," Oliver explains. "The utilities are just way too expensive. I mean, \$530 dollars a day is what we spend on utilities. It's insane! I'm really excited about the new place, but more than anything, because expenses like that will go down, and then we can really focus on what we do best, which is, of course, staying open and putting on more shows every single night."

Oliver is certain that all of the Sidetrack's employees, dedicated fans and musicians will be much happier in their new home. Like any big move, though, it will take some getting used to. All in all, though, Oliver feels as though the musical atmosphere won't change a bit.

"Any move is little jarring on the system, and I'm sure it'll be jarring on some of our live music fans and clientele," Oliver says. "But the bottom line is that all the bands are going with us. The same bands that play here are going to play at the new place."

"I'm really excited about the move, though, because I've just recently become an owner here and this is a really great opportunity for me. When I bought into the Sidetrack, I always felt like I was wearing someone else's clothes, but now, they fit a little bit better."

The new location, which is scheduled to open on 17 March, has acquired a seven-year lease with the option of another ten. After all of the hard work and dedication put into revamping the new site, Oliver not only plans on staying there for a long time, but also considers it to be a much more accessible setting for bands and listeners alike.

"We think that the new place will sound as good, if not better, than the old place, with the way we've laid everything out and the way we're really focusing on the stage area. Basically, it's a little bit of a smaller space, but it seems bigger because you can see the band from about 70 per cent of the room. Also, people can look forward to the bathrooms not being in the middle of the room. I'll look forward to that too," Oliver chuckles.

Despite his delight over lower heating bills and easy to find washrooms, Oliver can't help but feel a tad sentimental over the old location, the Sidetrack's home for the last 25 years. His first memories may be of "machos the size of your head, cold beer and nice waitresses," but his

fondest memory—or memories, in this case—are the ones that others have shared with him about their own experiences at The Sidetrack Café.

"My fondest memory is peoples' fondest memories," says Oliver. "I like people coming up to me and saying 'I remember seeing this person here' or 'I remember seeing this band here.' Just hearing some people who are excited about the move makes it bittersweet. However, the best comment I heard was our from our Xerox representative. He said, 'Wow, I'm really going to miss this place; it was the first place I ever got drunk.'"

Just as Oliver harbours a soft spot for the old Sidetrack, so does local Edmonton musician Ben Spencer. Spencer has been the Sidetrack's open stage host for the last three years, and in addition to playing nearly every Monday evening, he's been a contracted opener since he was 18 years old. For Spencer, the old Sidetrack hasn't only given him a chance to strut his stuff, but it's also provided him some of the most interesting conversation starters.

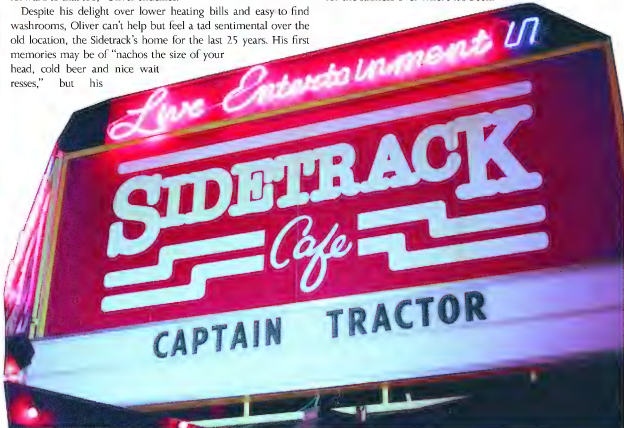
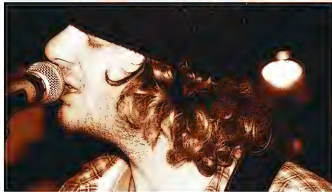
"The best times I've had [at the old place] I'm sure I don't remember. But one night, I did get into an argument with Jeff Martin from The Tea Party after their concert, and it was probably my absolute best and worst memory at the Sidetrack," Spencer reminisces. "We were talking about the grammatical accuracy of his song that has 'where's my angels' in its chorus, and of course, I was asking him why it couldn't be 'where is my angel' or 'where are my angels.' He said that it was because he was from Windsor and he hangs out with the brothers from Detroit and that's how they talk. Obviously, it escalated from there."

Having been a regular of the Sidetrack, and a featured performer, Spencer has already passed judgment on the new location. Having paid a visit to the work-in-progress, Spencer seems satisfied that the spirit of the Sidetrack is not only alive in the new location, but that the facility will meet the standards held by local musicians.

"It's a really slick and conscientious setup," says Spencer. "They'll have the main rock and roll stage at the back of the new club, and there'll be a new side stage near the front. Sometimes the dance floor can create a disconnection between a solo artist and the crowd, so the side stage will be a smaller singer/songwriter stage for a more intimate feeling with the listeners. The open stage will run off of the smaller stage, and I think people will feel a little bit more comfortable playing off of it, especially if it's your first time playing."

First times are tough, indeed, and when you're moving for the first time, it can be an overwhelming experience. However, whether it means changing elementary schools, leaving home to attend university or switching from one music locale to another, the sense of apprehension is usually cancelled out by the thrill of starting something new. And, to Spencer, this feeling has already made its way into the pit of his stomach.

"With any change, you mourn a little for what you're leaving, but there's just so much excitement towards where the Sidetrack is moving and its contribution to the sort of insular, downtown community that's growing with all its restaurants and bars," Spencer says. "Where the Sidetrack is going truly compensates for the sadness over where it's been."



From cut-and-paste to the cutting edge

Edge Codes

Directed by Alex Shuper
Thursday, 2 March at 8pm
Metro Cinema

MICHAEL LAROQUE
Entertainment Editor

With the Oscars coming up this weekend, film fans everywhere are making wagers on what movies will be taking home the big awards, best picture, best actor and actress, and best director are all subject to massive speculation. But then there are the technical awards, of which only a few sneak into the TV broadcast and only a few people tend to care about. Sound editing? I don't want to think about sound editing, I want to think about if my \$20 wager on *Crash* to win is going to pay off.

But a new film showing at the Metro is set to change all that, by putting the post-production artists—the film editors—front and centre in a movie that shows the history, technology and skill of splicing together a feature film.



subject, ranging from *Hard Core Logo* director Bruce McDonald to the editors who worked on *Raging Bull* and *Gangs of New York*. The discussions range from what makes a good shot, how they choose what to put in and leave out, and how they work with directors to make the final product.

Even more interesting than their insights, though, is the history of editing and the technology used that is covered throughout the film. *Edge Codes* starts at the experimental editing that took place in the early years of film in the Soviet Union, showing how their techniques influenced American filmmaking, and runs up to the avant-garde work done at the Canadian Film Board in the '70s and present-day techniques. Innovators like George Lucas explain the history of film editing technology, and recount the inventions and processes that brought editing from being a literal cut-and-paste process to the high-tech operation it is today.

Despite interesting subject matter, however, *Edge Codes* didn't run through without complaints. While it's a good documentary in most aspects, it will ultimately leave any moviegoer who isn't a rabid film fan with the feeling that it was something that they should have caught on TV.

In *Edge Codes*, audiences are introduced to the process that helps make every movie the smooth and hopefully coherent film that makes it to the screen. Codes goes straight to the source and interviews experts on the

is done. The history of editing and the technology used in the process is fascinating, but you better be ready for a concentrated dose of movie-making details if you go.

As well, as *Edge Codes* continues interviewing filmmakers and film editors, one can't help but feel as though the spotlight is, if only slightly, inflating the egos of these behind-the-scenes artists. The examples of editing finesse slowly shifts from the selection of shots and deciding where to cut, to discussing scenes that were obviously the brainchild of the director and cinematographer than anything the editor came up with. At one point they show a scene from *Taxi Driver*, where the camera slowly passes along a wall, bringing Travis Bickle subsequently in and out of the frame before stopping on a long shot of a hallway that Travis then walks down. Now, I'm no filmmaker, but the mere fact that the scene was shot in this manner would suggest to me that the director had that scene in mind while shooting, and it wasn't an editing-room creation.

Aside from a few complaints, though, *Edge Codes* is still an informative, and surprisingly entertaining, movie to watch. Those who are already well-versed in the art of movie making will enjoy seeing some great filmmakers talk about the process, while even those who know nothing about bringing a movie to life will be able to enjoy the behind-the-scenes look at what happens once the director yells "cut."

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DANA KOMPERDO

THE LAST SASKATCHEWAN PIRATES AT THE LAST SIDETRACK SHOW Captain Tractor headlines the farewell show at the Sidetrack Café last Saturday. The venue, which reached maximum capacity, is opening its new location on 17 March.

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MICHAEL LAROCQUE
Entertainment Editor

Irish cinema: for the vast majority of casual moviegoers—that being those who don't seek out foreign features on their own—their experiences with the genre are likely limited to the second half of *Waking Ned Devine* caught on the CBC. And, even for those who do browse the imports section at their local Blockbuster, only the big releases, and not the smaller, critically acclaimed films, tend to end up making it onto the shelf. For those interested in some of lesser known films that have come out of Ireland, the Metro will be playing host to Edmonton's Irish Film Festival this weekend, putting some of the Emerald Isle's screen gems on display.

Opening the festival on Friday is 2004's *Mickybo & Me*, the story of two children who become best friends around the time that "the troubles"—the conflict with the IRA—start in Ireland. The two become fascinated with the stars of American westerns, and are motivated by these adventure-seeking heroes to escape from their violence-filled country to Australia.

Saturday night continues with four shorts. *Finbar Lebowitz* is a movie about a 17-year-old boy who is in love

with an older, Jewish woman and is the head of his fatherless family. *The Birthday* is a twelve-minute story about a family trip to the Irish mainland for a mother's birthday dinner. It's followed up by *Full Circle*, which shows the private lives of a security guard and a chip shop owner who continually watch each other from their stations on opposite sides of a street. Finally, *Dance, Lexie, Dance*, nominated for a 1998 Academy Award, follows a twelve-year-old Protestant girl who wants to grow up and be a Riverdancer, a traditionally Catholic art form.

Budwanny which translates, and this is true, to "The Monk's Penis," ... has been highly praised for both its story and style, and will likely be a treat for those who are looking not only for a compelling story, but also creative filmmaking.

Saturday will end with the showing of the feature-length *Dead Bodies*, a humorous thriller based around the easy-going and carefree Tommy. When Tommy's girlfriend accident-

tally slips and dies during one of their many domestic disputes, Tommy decides to dispose of the body in the woods rather than risk being blamed, a move that gets him entrenched in a seedy underworld.

Closing the festival is what might be the most interesting film, the 1987 feature *Budwanny*. The film was shot on Clare Island, and filled many of its roles with local residents. The story follows a local priest who faces crisis when his affair with a local resident ends with a pregnancy. The priest plans on continuing to lead his church, with his mistress leaving the island to have their child. However, he still has to ultimately approach not only his congregation with the news, but the bishop to whom he must face on a spiritual and professional level. *Budwanny*, which translates, and this is true, to "The Monk's Penis," is shot in colour and with sound for the scenes featuring the bishop, while alternating to black and white and the use of intertitles for those featuring the priest. The film has been highly praised for both its story and style, and will likely be a treat for those who are looking not only for a compelling story, but also creative filmmaking.

This weekend's Irish offerings hold something for both dedicated film buffs and those who are ready to journey past the realm of major releases, so instead of simply tracking down the other half of *Ned Devine*, use the effort to make a trip down to the Edmonton Irish Film Festival and take in a sample of their cultural offering.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE



We Are Wolves

Friday, 3 March at 8pm
Victory Lounge

We Are Wolves—or Nous Sommes Loups, if you feel so inclined as to speak in French—are making their way west from Québec this weekend, and full moon or not, they're ready to tear up the town.

Montreal has produced quite a few up-and-coming rock bands as of late, and We Are Wolves may just be one of the many, but this electro-rock group has created a stir in their own right. The group is touring across Canada at the moment, but after trekking across the frozen tundra, they'll be heading down south for a little rendezvous with the folks at the South by Southwest music festival. So, given their lupine tendencies and bilingual talents, We Are Wolves is definitely a show worth checking out.

Summit Conference

Directed by Trevor Schmidt
3–12 March at 8pm
The Third Space

What do you get when you place Hitler

and Mussolini's mistresses in the same room? One hell of a tea party, that's what.

Summit Conference, Northern Light Theatre's current theatrical production, centres upon two very controversial women—Eva Braun and Clara Petacci—and their encounters with unmitigated power. At first, the females chat about the arts and the weather over a simple cup of tea, but as the play progresses, the audience no longer finds themselves in the midst of a simple gathering. Discussions of anti-Semitism, gender roles and authority arise, and unexpectedly, the women begin to take on their lovers' negative personas.

It's true that we've all seen our fair share of Hitler and Mussolini, but if you want to gain a different perspective on the two political extremists and perhaps take a peek at their intimate love lives, make sure to catch Summit Conference this weekend.

Moneen

Friday, 3 March at 8pm
The Powerplant

While the moniker might urge you to belt out the lyrics to "Money," let it be known that Moneen's sound is nothing of the Pink Floyd kind.

The Brampton, Ontario emo-rockers will be paying a visit to the Powerplant this Friday, and although there's no real way to describe their music, let's just say they're more of a moshing band than a smoke-pot-and-chill band. Better known for their Switcheroo split CD with Alexisonfire, the band is embarking on a massive tour which encompasses much of Canada, the US and Europe, and with the number of quality rock shows Edmonton's had over the past year, there's no harm in adding another to the growing list.

AMANDA ASH

Arts & Entertainment Staff

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The Oscar's winner's circle, if the Academy had any 'nads



GROUP COMMENTARY

it's unlikely we'll see a *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang* sequel. However, it should still be rewarded with a golden statue.

Edmon Rotea

Best Supporting Actress—Scarlett Johansson

The Oscar award for best actress should go to one of Hollywood's most talented, and beautiful, actresses: Scarlett Johansson. Her performance in this year's most underrated sci-fi action blockbuster, *The Island*, proved her acting prowess.

Johansson also proved her versatility as an actress, portraying not just one, but two different characters in the film. She has gained the hearts and minds of audiences playing the sweet and innocent virgin-clone Jordan Two Delta, while enchanting viewers with her beauty and sophistication as the elegant supermodel Sarah Jordan.

Scarlett Johansson can also butt heads with some of the biggest actors in Hollywood. From beating Ewan McGregor at a round of the futuristic Xbox virtual reality game *Dead or Alive 2019*, to eluding the evil clutches of Sean Bean, Johansson has certainly come a long way from her days as a supporting character in 2001's *Ghost World*.

More than anything, though, she has shown that she will dare to be different—and proud of it. From posing nude for fashion magazines like *Vanity Fair* to starring in Woody Allen's upcoming romance-comedy *Scoop*, she dares to take on critical projects that aren't guaranteed to be a massive success, thereby taking a route ignored by other young stars like Lindsay Lohan or Hillary Duff have never gone before.

Even though *The Island* was a flop at the box office, Scarlett Johansson's still delivered an Oscar-worthy performance.

Elizabeth Vail

Best Original Screenplay—The 40-Year-Old Virgin

Throughout the years, Oscar has continued to look down its golden nose at movies that actually entertain

people with humour. Comedies have always come in second at the Academy Awards, if they're even lucky enough to be entered into the races at all. This seems to be the main reason why Judd Apatow and Steve Carell, the delightfully funny minds behind last summer's smash *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, were not nominated for Best Original Screenplay.

With *Virgin*, Apatow and Carell managed to hang together a story about a middle-aged innocent that was both raunchily funny and painfully true. Through use of conversational humour, they turned what could have been a one-note farce about a man's desperate desire to get laid into an insightful commentary on humanity's obsession with sex. Together, they created what was thought to be impossible: an intelligent sex comedy.

Jessica Warren

Best Picture—Serenity

Think *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, but in the future, and with cannibals—and no vampires. This movie was the academy's chance to finally thank writer/director Joe Whedon for his unique artistic vision of nubile and ever-flexible young women doing battle with monsters. Monsters. Plus, everything's in the dark, which is sexy, and the girls wear tight clothing. Which is sexy.

Serenity may appeal to sci-fi fans, but its popularity doesn't end there. Let's break this thing down: Capote has organized crime, and *Serenity* has organized crime—or at least cannibals who conduct somewhat organized attacks. *Pride and Prejudice* has characters speaking in an old version of English, while *Serenity* has characters who interpret what a Texan accent will sound like in the future. *Good Night, and Good Luck* has Communist conspiracy theories, but *Serenity* has actual poor people. Mumich has guns, *Serenity* has bigger guns. *Crash* has racism, *Serenity* confronts racism head on by casting one of the few black men in the film as the personification of everything the downtrodden crew of *Serenity* is fighting against. Clearly, anyone can see how this film is Oscar worthy.

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Jonn Knech

Best Supporting Actor—Val Kilmer
Best Screenplay—Kiss Kiss Bang Bang

For Best Supporting Actor, the Academy should nominate Val Kilmer for his performance as a homosexual private eye in *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*. Not only did he wittily portray the aptly named Gay Perry, he did so hilariously without resorting to the usual stereotypes of gays that so often permeate movies and television these days (*Will and Grace*, I'm looking at you). Although some of the suits he was in were pretty flaming, there were no screams of "Fabulous!" and flippant hand ... uh, flips ... to be seen here. For this, he should be commended.

As well, *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang* should be up for best screenplay. The writers managed to turn a film-noir-style spy plot into an intelligent comedy that blended action, romance and humour and was truly fresh in both presentation and execution. *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang* was easily one of the best comedies of the year. Unfortunately, the movie only made a pathetic \$4.5 million at the box office. It's sad when funny and novel comedies like this one are ignored while derivative and poorly executed garbage like *Big Momma's House 2* and *The Pink Panther* (amid many others from 2005) pull in over \$50 million. Since people vote with their money,

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SPORTS

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Hockey Bears begin championship defence against Calgary

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

While many of their peers used the discharge of Reading Week to escape to warmer climates, there was no respite for the Golden Bears hockey team. Despite earning a bye for finishing atop the Mountain division in Canada West, Bears players continued their intimate relationship with the ice, as they maintained their rigorous practice schedule to stay sharp for this weekend's best-of-three conference semi-final.

And after a gruelling week of practice, they'll receive a tough welcome to the playoffs against a University of Calgary Dinos team that earned a hard-fought series victory in three games last weekend against the University of British Columbia.

"It does matter to us if we win Canada West, and we take pride in winning Canada West because it's such a tough league to play in."

CHRIS OVINGTON
BEARS DEFENCEMAN



FILE PHOTO: NEAL WILDING

LAST TEAM STANDING Joff Kehler (right) and the Bears hockey team get their post-season underway this weekend when they play host to Calgary.

"Calgary's already got one weekend under their belt of what it takes, and we have to come out and match that intensity and work ethic," said Bears head coach and Canada West Coach of the Year Eric Thurston. "We'll have to pick up our level of play, because playoff hockey is a step up and we have to make sure that we're able to rise to the occasion. I don't think we've played our best hockey yet, and I think we're an experienced team and we know that playoff time is real time."

While the Canada West playoffs don't mean

quite as much for the Bears, who, as this year's hosts, gain an automatic spot at nationals, the Dinos find themselves facing a critical weekend, as they need to win the series for their season to continue and to also increase their chances of capturing the other Canada West berth at nationals.

Of course, the odds of the Dinos emerging victorious are better than they have been in years past. Not only did they win more than one game against the Bears for the first time in six years, Calgary also boasts five selections

to the Canada West All-Star team, second only to the Bears' six. However, according to one of the Bears' all-stars, assistant captain Chris Ovington, the team doesn't need any extra motivation to get up for the first series of the 2006 post-season.

"There's enough leadership in our locker room to know that we can't take having made nationals for granted, because how we finish here matters with the seedings in the tournament," he said. "It does matter to us if we win Canada West, and we take pride in winning Canada West because

it's such a tough league to play in."

"We have an experienced team, and since after Christmas, we've been a different team and I think these guys see what they're playing for," added Thurston. "Some guys are defending a national championship and some guys are here to win one, and I really see that as the driving force of our team."

Game time will be at 7:30pm on both Friday and Saturday night, and at 7pm on Sunday night if necessary, with all of the action taking place at Clare Drake Arena.

Volleyball Pandas' hunt for CIS gold will conclude in Calgary



CHRIS O'LEARY
Sports Editor

It may sound completely out of character for a U of A squad, but the Pandas volleyball team can't wait to get to Calgary this weekend.

As hosts of the women's CIS volleyball championships this year, the Jack Simpson Memorial Gym is where the Pandas are hoping they can capture their first national championship since 2000; and since they can't win the championship playing at home, head coach Laurie Eisler and her team are happy to try and do so in Cowtown.

"We've just played really well in that gym, so we're looking forward to being back there. Just being able to have our family and friends around us is a good thing," the 14-year coaching vet said.

Although being just a few hours from home this weekend may be nice, the possibility of the Pandas and host Dinos meeting on the court could pose a great challenge to the Pandas, as Calgary has topped Alberta at nationals the last two years, including a 3-1 loss in the championship game of 2004. According to Eisler, she's taught her team to leave the loss in the past and to focus on the positives of the situation.

"You try not to bring too much baggage with you," she said. "What you try to bring from the past is the learning experience—what you can do better in [the future]. Ultimately, every team has its own identity and challenges, and our players have really grown from those experiences and they're better players from it. They're stronger for it and still having another chance at [winning the championship] is everyone's dream."

Fifth-year outside hitter Tawanna Wardlaw said she still remembers her struggles against Calgary in the championship game two years

back, but, like Eisler, added that she's learned from the losses and taken the positives from the experience with her.

"I learned a lot about myself as a player. You can try and prepare for a national final, but you never really know what it's like until you've been in one. I try and take that experience and confidence with me," she said. "Obviously, I didn't prepare well enough to play in that final. I learned about not just preparation but relaxing and being in the moment. I was thinking about the outcome too much."

Wardlaw added that the Pandas aren't out to avenge the past few years worth of losses to Calgary, or, more recently, UBC, who topped them 3-0 for the Canada West championship this past weekend in Vancouver. She said that the focus of her and her teammates lies on a greater prize.

"I don't really care who our opponents are," she said. "It might sound cliché, it might sound untrue, but it really doesn't matter who we play. We're really focused on our performance and on what we can control. If we can control our game and focus on that and take care of ourselves, we'll worry about who we're playing afterwards."

"I think really what you're looking at, is a pool of teams and the challenge is to see who can bring the most of their game," said Eisler. "And that's so hard under the pressure of the championships. Some teams might bring all of their game and some teams might bring 70 per cent of their game. You never know what pressure does. We feel really prepared for this and we know that we've been at our best when we've been under pressure this year."

The Pandas will enter the pressure cooker that is nationals on Thursday. Should they qualify for the championship match, it will air live on TSN Saturday at 2pm.

ONE MORE OBSTACLE Jocelyn Blair and the Pandas are after their first championship since 2000.

FILE PHOTO: SILVIA JOELAVPOOLVANN



CAN'T GET THROUGH US Leo Carroll and the Bears volleyball team will defend their CIS championship this weekend. FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FORBES

Bears volleyball team just three wins away from repeating as national champions

ANDREW RENFREE
Sports Staff

It's no surprise that the Bears volleyball team is headed to the national championships this weekend at McMaster University in Hamilton. Even the most inapt late-night psychic could have predicted that. And it doesn't take a volleyball expert to figure out that with a total of 32 wins and only a single loss, Alberta is favoured to repeat as CIS gold medalists.

For some time now, the mantra of the Bears volleyball team has been to repeat as national champions. The Bears have been struggling off personal accolades (and there have been many players recognized individually: Brock Daviduk and Nick Cundy were named to the Canada West first all-star team; Dallas Soonias and Alex Gaumont-Casas were named to the second-team; Justin Wong was named Libero of the Year) while focusing on the goal that has united them since day one—be the best volleyball team in the country. Alberta head coach Terry Danyluk said he's had that goal since winning the national championship last year.

"The goal, in my mind, is always to put a team on the floor that can win a national championship. I probably started thinking about it the minute the game was done last year, but I'm sure the players didn't start thinking about it until the start of the school season," said Danyluk. "It wasn't an unrealistic view, just based on the number of athletes we had returning from a championship team. I think it feels awesome to be three games away

from that goal, but we've got to get by two teams before we can even play for the championship."

Alberta has been methodically getting by teams for more than 25 weeks now; another weekend, another win, another step closer. As the regular season took its course, Alberta beat all of their Canada West competitors with the exception of one loss to UBC on 4 November—a reminder that the Bears are good, but not perfect. Despite posting a regular-season conference record of 19-1 and winning two playoff games to capture the Canada West gold medal, Danyluk is sure that the maturity of his team will prevent them from being complacent heading into nationals.

"This is a pretty mature group of athletes, and they do have a goal in mind, which is usually the most important thing—if you play without a goal it might be easy to fall off the fence," he said. "I'm hoping that with the maturity of the athletes and the fact that they have a pretty substantial goal in mind, that should keep them on pace."

All of this hard work comes down to this weekend, though, and unfortunately a record of 34-2 on the season would look good, but wouldn't be good enough. Danyluk indicated that his team isn't doing anything different in preparation this week, just some fine-tuning before they head to Hamilton. He mentioned that it's huge having players on his team who have been through a national championship last year.

"You need to know how to win," said Danyluk. "You need to be in

situations in order to grow as an athlete and I think a lot of these guys have been in this situation before, so having that in your back pocket is always important."

While the Bears are favoured to win the gold medal, there will be several teams eager to prevent that. The Canada West division was, by far, the strongest in the country this season, so some of the contenders will be teams with which Alberta is quite familiar. Leading the charge is second-ranked Trinity Western, who took the Bears to a five-set thriller in last year's national final, forcing the match into a fifth and deciding set, and spent the early part of the season ranked first. Another contender will be the Dalhousie Tigers, who come into the tournament as Atlantic champions with a season record of 19-1. However, Danyluk said that his team isn't thinking of one particular opponent and will focus on their first game against host McMaster.

"Mac is the biggest challenge to start with, and that's the only thing I've looked at so far. All of the teams there have good records because they've won their conferences, so any team on one given night can beat anybody, as far as I'm concerned," he cautioned. "There are teams there with lots of history and the biggest thing is making sure that you're prepared for that opponent that night, and not looking ahead."

The Bears flew to Hamilton yesterday and will have their first game tomorrow evening. Semi-finals will go on Saturday and the gold medal game will be broadcast Sunday, live on TSN at 2pm.

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Students' Council and GFC Nominations

Nomination packages are now available for Students' Council and General Faculties Council Students' Council is the highest governing body of the Students' Union, and General Faculties Council is the highest governing academic body of the University. The following positions are available;

**Agriculture, Forestry,
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5 SU Seats
4 GFC Seats

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1 GFC Seat

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1 SU Seat
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**Physical Education
and Recreation**
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To download a Nomination Package or find out more about these positions, please visit the Elections Website or the Chief Returning Officer (Room 3-02K SUB)

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WELCOME TO THE TEAM, BITCH Nothing says that you're part of the team like some demoralization and humiliation.

SFU suspends aquatic team over hazing

BYRYA HALLAM
CUP British Columbia Bureau Chief

VICTORIA (CUP) — A series of games at a party has led to the suspension of Simon Fraser University's champion dive and swim team days before they were to defend their national titles.

The incident, which took place in September 2005, saw senior members of the aquatic team singling out junior members to perform a number of acts, including describing sexual fantasies involving other members of the team and being photographed in sexual positions while wearing their team uniforms.

Nello Angerilli, the school's acting Associate Vice-President (Students), said that while the events were "by and large physically harmless," they constitute hazing.

"Because we have a very strict policy on [hazing], which is explained to all members of the swim team ... the recommendation from Recreation and Athletics was that we had to deal as strictly as possible with this event," he explained. "Revoking their ability to compete is meant to send a 'very strong message that we're serious about this.'"

As a result, the team will not be

competing in the North America-wide National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics championships in St. Louis, Missouri this week. The men's team is the defending champion, while the women's team was last year's runner-up.

In total, 19 members of the team were suspended, including the junior members who were hazed. Three members absent from the party were not suspended; however, they chose not to compete in the championships.

Angerilli said the decision to suspend the junior members of the team was difficult, but that the policy is clearly explained to all team members.

"The junior members are specifically told they should not participate in hazing because they are the targets, and our view is that eliminating the targets of hazing would make it much more difficult to conduct one of these things," he said.

"They were told when they're presented with a case or a situation where it looks like there is going to be some sort of induction ceremony beyond what the University sanctions, that they should refuse to participate."

According to Angerilli, the response from members of the team has varied:

some have said they recognize they did the wrong thing, while others believe the University has no business in what was a private party.

"Normally they'd be absolutely right," said Angerilli. But he noted it was very clear that these were not random invitees, and that the junior members were in their team uniforms.

The University first became aware of the incident when head coach Liam Donnelly received an e-mail on 19 January that was allegedly from one of the assistant coaches, who has since said in a sworn affidavit that he did not send it.

Angerilli said that the fact the e-mail was sent at all suggests the hazing had a negative impact and that the group might not be solid as a team.

Two years ago, the aquatic team had what Angerilli called a "behavioural problem" that resulted in a training session on what hazing is, why it's a bad idea and why it's inappropriate behaviour for teams. The organizers of this year's event had all gone through that training.

In the future, SFU plans to "broaden and deepen" the training given to athletic teams in order to prevent other incidents.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the 2006/2007 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007 and pays \$1800/mo*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2006/2007 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a Gateway editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.** Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 3 March 2006. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

LINE EDITORS

The Gateway is accepting applications for the following line editor positions** for the 2006/2007 publishing year:

MANAGING EDITOR	SPORTS EDITOR
SENIOR NEWS EDITOR	ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR	PHOTO EDITOR
OPINION EDITOR	DESIGN & PRODUCTION EDITOR

All terms run from 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Four issues of the Gateway will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least two of the four summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive \$1500* per month; all other line editors will receive \$1185* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee. Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 10 March 2006. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

THE GATEWAY

*Pay will be adjusted for CPI over the summer and may increase.
** Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.gateway.ualberta.ca/hiring/

Pandas' soccer coach calls it quits

Kelly Vandergrift won't return to team after taking half-time leave; Athletics Department hopes for replacement by 15 April

CHRIS OLEARY
Sports Editor

After taking a season away from the team she had coached for the past four years, Kelly Vandergrift has decided that her days as head coach for the Panda soccer team are done.

Vandergrift, who played for the Pandas from 1988-1992 before getting behind the bench in 2001, leaves with a decent conference record of 28-13-15 and an impressive 42-16-16 record overall. Her departure wasn't exactly a surprise to athletics director Dale Schulha, who said that Vandergrift told him last summer that she was unsure of her future with the program.

"She said that she was going through some decision-making in terms of what she was going to do with her career. She asked for a partial leave and she stepped away from coaching for this fall and continued her teaching responsibilities and helped us with the [women's soccer] national championships that we ran," he said. "She took a half-time leave with the understanding that she'd let us know in February or March what her plans would be."

Vandergrift told Schulha "about ten days ago" of her intentions, and Schulha waited through Reading Week to tell the Pandas soccer team of what the future would hold for them.

"We'll go through the [hiring] process and we'll get the best person for the

position. I think there'll be a lot of interest; soccer is very big in this city," he said. "I'll be putting an advertisement together very quickly and trying to get it out next week and we'll try to move through the process as quickly as we can."

Liz Jensen, Vandergrift's assistant of the past three years (2001-2003), stepped in this season and assumed head-coaching duties. Jensen took a squad with low expectations and made them an upset club that pulled a number of impressive upsets through the 2005 season, before bowing out to McGill at the CIS championships. Schulha is hopeful that Jensen will be one of the candidates that he can consider for the coaching vacancy.

"Liz has stepped in and done a very good job in Kelly's absence. I've encouraged her to apply and I hope she does. She hasn't told me what she'll do one way or another," he said.

With a full plate in front of him as he and the Athletics Department prepare to host the Telus University Cup for men's hockey from 23-26 March, Schulha said that he'd like to have a new coach named before the end of the academic semester.

"I'm hoping that we can name someone by 15 April. We can advertise for a couple of weeks, go through the selection process and then offer the position. I think in six weeks, we can get it done."

Olympic whining just too much



JONN
KMECH

Sports
Commentary

The 2006 Winter Olympics concluded Sunday with a lavish ending ceremony that consisted of an army of clowns, tiny cars, mermaids, Ricky Martin, dragons breathing fire, people dressed like court jesters and a bizarre five-ringed art monument. I guess it was avant-garde, or minimalist, or something.

At the end, I was amazed and confused with what the hell I had just witnessed. It was likely to give small children recurring nightmares for weeks, but it also truly captured the reckless competitive spirit that is at the heart of the Olympic games, a feeling that has sadly been forgotten.

I'm talking about Olympic whining. With every passing Olympics, it has become the standard to set a goal for our Olympic team's medal count and determine our relative success as a nation by that number. However, the idea of telling Team Canada's athletes that they must make a medal quota isn't only backwards when compared to the competitive ideal of sportsman-ship at the Olympics, it puts unnecessary pressure on the athletes to get to the podium, or be considered "missed opportunities," as CTV news anchors have called them.

The media has become the main purveyors of this expected medal count, but it's the Canadian Olympic Committee who sets this goal. Ending with 24 medals and excellent performances by team Canada, our nation had one of our most successful winter Olympics ever, judging by medal count. But judging success this way can be deceiving. We won 24 medals in Turin versus 13 at Lillehammer in 1994, and there has been a steady increase in the past 12 years. But keep in mind that Turin had 23 more events than Lillehammer, and Canada sent almost double the number of athletes. This success based on medals difficult to quantify.

It does however, easily allow for disappointments. According to the Canadian Olympic Committee and several columnists, since our original goal was 25 medals, we still "fell one short." This is the main fallacy with setting medal goals: no matter how well we do, if we don't make the mark, we as a country haven't

done well enough.

Canada had 13 fourth-place finishes in Turin and eight fifth-place finishes, according to the COC. Clearly, this makes Canada "first among losers," according to Eric Francis of SunMedia. This consensus was clear among many journalists, all of whom questioned what went wrong with those failed medal hopefuls.

This kind of statement is downright insulting to our Olympic team and our country. Why is fourth-place a failure and third-place a success? Just because the athlete receives a token of achievement for it?

By placing fourth, you are fourth-best in the world. There should be absolutely no shame in not medalling when you're competing for your country on the world stage, and it's irresponsible for journalists to claim this. If athletes achieve personal bests, but don't medal, it doesn't count as a success with this double-standard attitude. There are no personal-best counts that I know of.

What would everyone say if Canada only came back with three medals and everyone else finished in the top ten? There would probably be a public outcry of national disgrace for our medal showing. We focus so much attention on our athletes losing medals as we do on athletes who earned medals or personal bests.

Granted, there may be many people out there who read this and say, "I guess we shouldn't try to beat anyone. Instead of giving medals for the winners, we should give every athlete a ribbon for trying, and hug at the end of the day—you stupid hippie jacks!"

My point is not to say that our athletes shouldn't strive to be the best in the world and shouldn't aim for the podium. Simply, we should not base our success on total medals won, because we will always find a way to be disappointed by our results. The men's hockey team admittedly should have performed better, but have been branded a complete failure, not because they didn't compete at the level they should have, but because they didn't bring home gold.

As we prepare Canada to host the 2010 games, we've already set a goal: 35 medals and a first-place showing. I can already imagine what our feelings will be if we don't meet this. In the next four years (or until Beijing), we should ask ourselves if we are willing to put petty medal-counting behind us and, as a country, embrace the true Olympic spirit. By the way, clowns are fine, but don't book Ricky Martin.

GFC COMMITTEES: STUDENTS NEEDED

The terms of office for students serving on **General Faculties Council (GFC)** Standing Committees and Appeal Boards and committees to which GFC elects members will expire on April 30, 2006. Undergraduate and graduate students (except as noted) are encouraged to apply now to serve on any of the following committees for terms of office beginning May 1, 2006, and ending April 30, 2007. (Some students currently serving on these committees may be seeking re-election to serve additional terms.)

Committee	Student Vacancies	Meeting Times
ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC): GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm/2nd&4th Wednesdays
ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC): GFC committee dealing with admissions, academic standing, transfer and dual academic policies.	ONE undergraduate (Undergraduate students who have transferred from an Alberta college are encouraged to apply)	9:00 am/3rd Thursday
CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC): Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Academic Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	9:30 am/last Thursday
COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CLE): Promotes excellence in teaching and optimal learning environment and provides for appropriate information resources to the University community.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm/1st Wednesday
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC): Recommends on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings, use of land, parking and transportation.	ONE undergraduate	9:00 am/3rd Friday
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC): Systems review awards for undergraduate students including selection and eligibility.	TWO undergraduates	Three times a year (October or November, February or March and April or May)
UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC): Adjudicates the Robertson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the William Handley Alexander Award for Excellence in Research Teaching, and the Teaching Unit Award.	TWO undergraduates & ONE graduate	Normally meets three times a year (October, March and April)
ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC): UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB): AAC hears and decides appeals regarding academic standing. UAB hears and decides appeals regarding disciplinary decisions of the Discipline Officer and Dean as made under the Code of Student Behaviour.	AAC: TWO undergraduates & THREE graduates UAB: FIVE undergraduates & TWO graduates	Hearings are normally scheduled from 4:30 pm onward and last from three to five hours. Students applying to other committees must have flexible late afternoon/evening schedules. YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE AT LEAST TWO NIGHTS MONDAY - THURSDAY. Please provide the names and contact information for at least three references, so oral reference checks will be conducted for both committees.
COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (COSA): The role of the Council is the betterment of the quality of student life at the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	Afternoons, normally 3rd Monday (September to March)

Application forms and committee information are available in PDF format on the University Secretariat website: <http://www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/>, or in Room 2.5 University Hall. Applications should be completed and returned to the University Secretariat by **Wednesday, March 4, 2006**. For information regarding committee membership and terms of reference, students are invited to contact: Ms Marlene Lewis, Secretary to the GFC Nominating Committee (NC), at 492-1938, or by e-mail: marlene.lewis@ualberta.ca.

NOTE: There is ONE STUDENT VACANCY on the GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for an undergraduate student who is a GFC member. Expressions of interest should be directed to Mr. Garry Bodnar, Secretary to the GFC Replenishment Committee.

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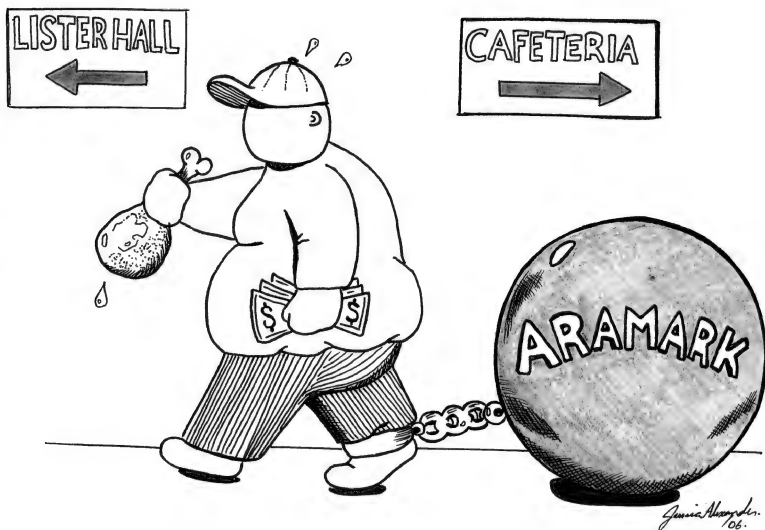


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Cafeteria

Conundrum



When first-year student Aanu Abiola signed up for residence at Lister Hall, she wasn't expecting her meal card to run out in February. "\$2200 is a lot of money to eat for a year, or at least I thought it was," said Abiola. "I guess it's not that much when you have to pay as much for food as we do."

Abiola's situation is becoming a common story as the year presses on, with only two other residents on her floor who still haven't used up their meal plans. And for every student with a spent meal plan comes a measure of dissatisfaction with the administration overseeing their food service, and Aramark, the corporation who provides it.

A company that most students are familiar with, Aramark maintains the large cafeteria in the Central Academic Building and several smaller cafeterias scattered across campus, as well as the entirety of the food services in Lister Hall. A multinational corporation based in Philadelphia, Aramark provides catering and similar services to institutions across North America, including universities, colleges and prisons. While the details of Aramark's contract with the university are undisclosed, it is generally assumed that they enjoy privileges giving them a partial monopoly over most areas of campus. Only HUB Mall, which is open to private businesses, and the Students' Union Building, which is overseen by the SU, where Listerites can also use their meal cards, house commercial competitors.

Aramark's holdings in Lister focus on a large cafeteria—the "Lister Garden Market," though it is usually just called the "caf"—and

the Marina, a small short-order grill which also houses Funky Pickle and Tim Hortons franchises. Staff and non-Lister students may be familiar with the Aramark swipe-cards used in the cafeterias across campus; Lister Hall residents have these meal cards too, but with a difference. Purchase of an Aramark meal plan is mandatory for a Lister Hall student, and the smallest plan is \$1800 per year. This mandatory meal plan has become a major point of concern for the Lister Hall Students' Association, who allege that Aramark is abusing its monopoly to price-gouge students for unhealthy and low-quality food.

"There's an expectation of quality," says Mitch Huot, vice-president for the Henday residence, and a member of the LHSA exec. "There's an expectation that if we pay so much it won't all be deep-fried this and deep-fried that, but it's not there. There's no value. We're not getting what we're forced to pay for."

A quick look at the Lister Garden Market menu and the prices at the Marina gives some indication of what has been frustrating the LHSA and its constituents: canned beans or canned pasta, \$3.99. Mr Noodles, \$1.40. Packaged salads are over \$5, and pasta from the steam table runs you \$5.49.

"It's horrible when you can go across the street to the Mac's and everything is a dollar cheaper," says Huot. "You can buy pop cheaper from the vending machines in the hall than in the cafeteria. And why do they do it? They do it because they already have your money. You have to put down \$1800 just to live here."

While the complaints about Aramark trickle

in every year, the Students' Union has taken no official stance on the issue. "There's nothing in the bylaws and no specific policy about it," explains SU President Graham Lettner. "There is definitely the sentiment that the renewal of Aramark's contract with the campus last year, without any student input at all, was surreptitious."

Lettner explained that while there is no official policy specifically in regards to Aramark, the SU's push for greater transparency on campus is meant to address issues like this by increasing student involvement in ancillary negotiations.

"The complaints aren't unique. I've been to other campuses with the same complaints that 'our food service isn't the best it could be.' But there is a difference between knowing the facts and putting the people together to act on it," asserts Lettner. "I think the Students' Union has reached the stage where we understand these issues; now we can ask what concrete steps can be made. These things will be put in place in due course, and that will allow us to act on these complaints rather than just know about them."

The Students' Union is aware of the concern surrounding the mandatory meal cards, but according to Lettner, considers them to be a necessary evil. In discussion with the administration responsible for Lister Hall earlier this year, Lettner says it was explained to him that the mandatory meal cards are meant to ensure that new students can avoid the additional stress of buying their own food and the potential danger of unhealthy eating.

Feature by
James Storrie

Illustration by
Jessica Alexander

It's horrible when you can go across the street to the Mac's and everything is a dollar cheaper. You can buy pop cheaper from the vending machines in the hall than in the cafeteria. And why do they do it? They do it because they already have your money. You have to put down \$1800 just to live here.

- Mitch Huot, Lister Hall Students' Associate, VP Henday Hall

With all of our cooked food, we have to have certified suppliers to maintain the image and brand of Aramark's food products. Prices vary across the country as costs are different for different locations.

- Rendeep St Jacques, marketing director, Aramark

"Not everyone who said no to Aramark would say yes to healthy, home-cooked meals prepared by themselves in their own Lister Hall kitchen; they're going to get into these junk food options that are out there for people to eat instead," Lettner said. "The idea has been floated that it could be not mandatory, but it is feasible that every Lister student would prepare their own food? I doubt it."

"I can't really make a clear claim that students are pouring their money down the drain with Aramark or that the food is overpriced, or any number of things. We're more than obliged to give the LHSA a helping hand, and I'm sure that if food issues were this much on the radar, they'd let us know." If the Students' Union has been focusing more on tuition and fee issues than the rising cost of residence food, it's probably because "tuition is more of a publicized issue than Aramark just raising the price of a can of soup," according to Lettner.

The story back at the LHSA, however, is disquieting to say the least.

"I don't know if these stories get out to the rest of campus," explains Michael Janz, VP for Mackenzie Hall. "Food service is the issue on our radar. There's nothing that we're more frustrated with. Students get these meal plans expecting that they'll last them through the year, and they end up running out a month or more beforehand. Other students who would like to cook for themselves don't get the chance, because they're locked into buying a minimum \$1800 worth of food from Aramark. We have problems with the constant increase in price, the lack of variety and freshness and overall low quality. The feeling here is basically frustration, with the lack of response from Aramark and the administration."

Janz, Huot and Lister VP (Internal) Michelle Chan explained that many Lister students simply do not want the food provided by Aramark, either because of prices being too high or quality being too low, but are not able to refuse the choice. They contend that mandatory meal plans not only subject students to financial hardship, but negatively impact health, studies and body image, and heap additional stress on a demographic that already ought to have its hands full with more meaningful things. Further, the LHSA's efforts to improve the situation seem to be impeded by political concerns and Aramark's refusal to make significant concessions.

"We do have a foods committee," Janz explains, "but typically the feeling is that

while it can handle minor concerns—we can get brown buns instead of white buns, or hot dogs on Thursdays, for example—it doesn't have the sway to take on the core issues. There are still not healthy options for vegetarians and vegans, just pasta and frozen vegetables with cream sauce every night for \$7.

"And no kosher or halal options at all," adds Huot. "Just pork, pork, pork."

"Aramark claims that they can't afford to expand their menu unless a certain number of Lister students are vegetarian, or eat halal, and such," says Janz. "But last time we checked, Aramark was a big Fortune-500-type corporation. You'd think they have some buying power."

"Aramark, as it turns out, claims to not have that buying power. According to Rendeep St Jacques, marketing director for Aramark on campus, the cause of the high costs students see are high prices from Aramark's suppliers.

"With all of our cooked food, we have to have certified suppliers to maintain the image and brand of Aramark's food products," said Rendeep. "Prices vary across the country as costs are different for different locations." If the Edmonton prices are significantly higher than those at other Aramark-serviced campuses then, explained Rendeep, it must be because the suppliers are charging more for particular products.

Lister students, and particularly the LHSA, find these claims somewhat dubious. "I'm skeptical," says Chan. "And I'm skeptical because I eat it. We know what the quality is like because we eat it. I can't look at their books to see how much they spend and how much they make, but they certainly have enough money to bring franchises in, that's for sure."

"Aramark can claim that the food is expensive because of their costs, but when you do the math it just doesn't add up," says Janz. "We're not getting the best food quality; we're not getting healthy options, and I doubt they're hiring five-star chefs or anything like that."

Janz also explained that this is not the first time Aramark has tried to explain their high costs away by appealing to an unlikely outside source: in past years, the reason for the high cost was trays.

"We used to have plastic trays to take food out of the cafeteria with, and Aramark claimed they were spending upwards of \$16 000 a year on these trays, and that was pushing the price of food up," said Janz. "Last year they elimi-

nated the take-out trays because they claimed so many were being stolen or broken, and replaced them with styrofoam packages. Now, waste is through the roof, and I imagine next year I'll see Aramark try to raise prices again, blaming the rising cost of styrofoam."

"You must be able to get at least a few trays for a dollar," said Chan. "\$16 000 is a lot of trays. I just don't see it."

The problems with the food service have become so frustrating that students are starting to trickle out of the residences, something the LHSA characterized as a great loss.

"I have friends from high school, smart and outgoing people who could have contributed to the tutor program or with one of the residence volunteer groups, but they moved out because they couldn't afford to keep eating the food," explains Chan. "I know a diabetic student who didn't return to Lister this year because she would have had to buy \$1800 of food that she simply couldn't eat."

"I can count at least seven students who have left Mackenzie this year, citing food as their main reason," adds Janz. "We all have a practical understanding here that we are paying for convenience, but the value is just too low, and we're forced to pay it even if we don't want to. The administration constantly claims that residence experience is important, and if you look at the SU and our student leaders so many have come through Lister. So much community involvement stems from Lister."

"If this community experience is so important, we just don't understand why more is being done to make the residences affordable. Everyone seems to feel that the residences are important, so why not give us some support? The food issue is the single most pressing issue in Lister, and the single biggest frustration to students here."

The frustration and feelings of powerlessness expressed by the LHSA suggest that, this year at least, nothing will be done about students like Abiola and her neighbours, who have already had their meal plans drained by inflationary prices. In an unfortunate turn of events, the meal plan advertised to students and their parents as reliable and affordable has instead loaded students with unnecessary costs and then cut out, just in time for mid-terms.

"I guess I'll just be buying groceries now," says Abiola, who only sees one way out of her predicament. "I guess I'll just spend more money."

Le créole, une langue toujours en évolution

LÉONARD ROBINSON
Journaliste

Pendant l'expansion coloniale européenne, les colons ont exploité les esclaves afin de faire avancer les économies de leurs terres natales. Toutefois, il leur fallait un système de communication qui faciliterait l'échange des informations, étant donné que les esclaves ne parlaient que leurs langues indigènes. Ceci a résulté en la naissance des langues créoles dans les différentes colonies de l'époque. Au fil des ans, ces langues se sont stabilisées tout en se transformant en des langues indispensables pour les sociétés héritières.

Ce qui frappe le plus lorsque l'on se réfère aux différents types de créole qui existent dans le monde, c'est évidemment le fait qu'il n'existe pas la plupart de leur lexique dans une langue européenne, ce qui permet de les classer plus facile-

ment. Cependant, au plan social et linguistique, ces langues sont menacées dans la mesure où elles continuent de côtoyer les langues européennes, les langues prestigieuses voire renommées surtout dans les sociétés francophones. Cet article tâchera donc d'examiner le rôle de ces langues au sein des sociétés francophones de même que les attitudes qui les dénigrent ou bien les promeuvent.

L'origine des langues créoles réside dans les îles colonisées par les Français, ce qui s'est vraisemblablement concrétisé en un choc culturel. Ce dernier a par la suite provoqué l'interpénétration des langues, une résistance, un refus et enfin des influences réciproques de la part des esclaves desdites îles et de leurs maîtres.

La langue créole jouit du statut de langue officielle en Haïti et aux Seychelles. Elle a atteint ce statut en 1981 aux Seychelles (Seychelles

Society); en Haïti, la langue bénéficiait de ce statut informel depuis son indépendance en 1804, mais en 1979, on lui a accordé le statut de langue officielle.

En somme, les langues créoles jouissent toutes d'un statut beaucoup plus élevé, nonobstant l'absence d'unicité en ce qui concerne leur appréciation. Malgré le chemin parfois difficile parcouru par ces langues depuis la période esclavagiste, elles continuent à évoluer et à prendre leur place dans les sociétés héritières. Avec la revalorisation et les changements plutôt lents mais certains dans les politiques linguistiques, il est à espérer que la langue créole côtoiera les autres langues dominantes à l'échelle internationale dans l'avenir. Ceci demeurera néanmoins une tâche qui exigera de la part des créolophones de la conviction à promouvoir leur langue : une langue de message et de chaleur humaine.

Le monde en bref

ÉRIC VAILLANT
Actualité

Le Hamas : organisation terroriste ou parti politique ?

Le 25 janvier dernier, les Palestiniens ont élu le Hamas, un groupe intégriste qui projette notamment la destruction d'Israël, lors de leurs élections législatives. Bien que les élections se soient déroulées démocratiquement, le résultat demeure pour le moins surprenant voire inquiétant si l'on considère les politiques extrémistes du parti. De fait, le Hamas est selon Gaëtan de Lamsalt (RI) « un parti inscrit sur la liste officielle des organisations terroristes depuis 2003 ». Or, la Palestine se voit désormais dirigée par un groupe qui depuis son élection gagne en puissance et qui n'hésite pas à utiliser la violence pour arriver à ses fins. De son côté, le Quartet des médiateurs au Proche-Orient (États-Unis, l'Union Européenne, la Russie et les Nations unies) demande que « tous les membres du futur gouvernement palestinien [s'engagent] en faveur de la non-violence, [reconnaissent] Israël et [acceptent] les anciens passés et leurs obligations, y compris la feuille de route ». C'est pourtant sans grand étonnement que cette demande fut rejetée par le Hamas à la fin de la réunion du Quartet. Ainsi, un porte-parole du Hamas a affirmé dès lors que « le Quartet aurait dû demander la fin de l'occupation et de l'agression israélienne au lieu d'exiger de la victime qu'elle reconnaisse l'occupation et qu'elle reste passive et les mains liées face à l'agression ». Devant la persistance des positions du Hamas, des sanctions économiques pourraient être prises afin de le persuader d'obtempérer.

Bien que les élections se soient déroulées démocratiquement, le résultat demeure pour le moins surprenant voire inquiétant si l'on considère les politiques extrémistes du parti.

Lors de la rencontre du Quartet qui a eu lieu le 30 janvier à Londres, les représentants ont soutenu que « l'Autorité internationale à l'Autorité palestinienne était conditionnée à la normalisation du Hamas » rapporte Benjamin Barthe (RI). Le Quartet allouera quelques mois au nouveau gouvernement afin qu'il puisse réviser ses positions, suite à quoi les subsidiaires risquent de diminuer considérablement. Cela plait au Hamas palestinien dans un certain embarras sachant qu'elle subsiste en grande partie grâce à ces argent.

Catholic School Board en déficit

Récemment le Catholic School Board d'Edmonton annonçait un déficit de 59 millions de dollars sur un budget total de 250 millions. Selon Bill Mah (The Edmonton Journal), la présidente des écoles catholiques, Debbie Cavaliere, affirme que ces erreurs n'ont rien de criminelles : « It was honest mistakes made by honest people ». Aucune enquête n'aura lieu notamment parce qu'elle serait trop coûteuse et qu'elle ne ferait que se rajouter au déficit. C'est en fait ce que CBC rapporte des propos de Madame Cavaliere : « There would be a huge cost related to [an] investigation and the board didn't think that was a good use of money when we already have a deficit [...] ». Priors pour les contribuables qu'une telle situation ne se reproduise plus.

contributions: Romain Chareyron, Éric Vaillant, Justine Mageau, Léonard Robinson.

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Les vacances sont terminées, mais le fun continue...

JUSTINE MAGEAU
Chronique étudiante

La semaine de lecture est finie, on recommence devoirs et études, mais le fun ne doit pas s'arrêter là. La liste suivante vous donnera de bonnes idées pour vous garder sain(e) pendant la dernière partie du semestre.

1. Si vous voulez profiter de la neige sans faire mal à votre portefeuille, faites du patinage. À Hawrelak park, la location de patins est seulement de quatre dollars et le patinage est gratuit.

Apportez du chocolat chaud et prenez une pause près du feu. Quoi de plus romantique si vous êtes en bonne compagnie? (Si vous voyez ce que je veux dire)

2. Vous détestiez prendre le LRT et préférer prendre l'autobus? Vous vous intéressez au réseau de transport en commun? Alors soyez présent(e) à la conférence communautaire annuelle de l'ETS le samedi 11 mars 2006 au campus central du collège Grant MacEwan. Donnez votre opinion afin d'aider l'ETS à améliorer ses services. Vous devrez vous inscrire d'avance alors visitez leur

site web www.tickets.com ou appelez 496-1611 pour plus d'informations.

3. Finalement, cherchez un bon emploi pour cet été. CAPS prépare des ateliers pour vous aider à trouver l'emploi de vos rêves (ou du moins un emploi où vous pourriez gagner assez d'argent pour payer vos frais de scolarité en septembre). Soyez présent à l'atelier « 4.0 resumes » mardi le 14 mars à 4 h 30. La session dure une heure et demie et inclut des feedbacks et des livres d'exercices. Le coût est de 25\$ à l'avance et de 30\$ à la porte.

Match Point ou le vertige des apparences

ROMAIN CHAREYRON
Arts & Spectacles

Dans une interview accordée au magazine américain *Première*, Woody Allen, lorsqu'on lui pose la question de savoir quel regard critique il porte sur son dernier film *Match Point*, n'hésite pas à dire qu'il s'agit sans aucun doute d'un de ses meilleurs. Cet enthousiasme du cinéaste, d'ordinaire assez critique vis-à-vis de ses films, est relayé par la presse spécialisée, cette dernière voyant le retour d'un auteur qui semblait s'être quelque peu perdu au cours de ses dernières années. Mentionnons ici le statut particulier de Woody Allen sur la scène internationale : cinéaste admiré et reconnu en Europe et, tout particulièrement, en France (il suffit pour s'en convaincre de voir l'un de ses films récents, *Hollywood Ending*, où il tourne en dérision cet état de fait), il a toujours souffert d'une désaffection de la part du public américain. On ne peut que se réjouir de voir quelqu'un comme lui, symbole même d'un certain cinéma d'auteur refusant les compromis artistiques, créateur d'un univers qui lui est propre, et évoluant en marge d'Hollywood, trouver enfin l'écho, publique et critique, qu'il mérite.

Conclusion après visionnement : il s'avère bel et bien que ce drame sombre et àpre brille tel un diamant noir dans la filmographie du réalisateur et se place à côté de certaines de ses films tels que *Maria et fermes* (tiens, l'un de ses préférés !) ou bien *September*. S'il est vrai que ce film est dépourvu de l'humour habituel du réalisateur, pour ne pas mentionner y percevoir des connexions avec certains de ses films précédents au niveau d'une certaine thématique sous-jacente à sa film-

ographie. Dans nombre de ses films, Woody Allen nous livre des personnages aux prises avec un destin qu'ils ne comprennent pas ou qui leur échappe (l'écritain de Harry dans ses États par exemple) et une certaine idée de la vacuité de l'existence a souvent perché sur ces œuvres, même celles au ton plus léger. Dans *Match Point*, cette idée est poussée à son maximum afin de nous offrir une satire féroce des jeux de l'amour et du hasard, mais également de la cupidité humaine.

Conclusion : ce drame sombre brille tel un diamant noir dans la filmographie du réalisateur.

« L'art de vivre c'est l'art de croire aux mensonges » : ces mots, de l'écrivain et poète italien Cesare Pavese, trouvent un écho particulier dans le film. Ce dernier dépeint l'ascension sociale, au sein de la haute société britannique, de Chris Wilton (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), ancien tennismen professionnel n'ayant jamais réussi à concrétiser les attentes que l'on avait placées en lui. Le jeune homme va rapidement s'avérer porteur de faillites et de névroses que la première impression ne permettait pas de saisir, permettant à Woody Allen de se livrer à une radiographie de l'homme moderne ainsi qu'à une peinture de mœurs qui, si elle se laisse sauver (sa peinture de la bourgeoisie britannique est un modèle du genre et ne verse jamais dans l'excès) le fait à la manière d'un bonbon acidulé : le plaisir que l'on y prend fait également grimacer. Un sentiment dû au fait que le film semble nous dire qu'il y a quelque

chose de fondamentalement vicie dans les rapports humains, où tout n'est que manipulation et duperie. Fiancé à la fille d'un riche patron (Emily Mortimer) et voyant se profiler devant lui un avenir des plus radieux, Chris est bien décidé à tout faire pour maintenir ce train de vie nouvellement acquis. C'est sans compter sa rencontre, aussi imprévue que passionnelle, avec Nola (Scarlett Johansson), jeune actrice américaine dont la carrière est derrière elle avant même d'avoir commencé, et qui se trouve être fiancée à son beau-fre. Liaison fatale aux conséquences dramatiques qui entraîne l'histoire dans les méandres de l'âme humaine. Mieux vaut laisser au spectateur le soin d'apprécier le machiavélisme de l'histoire.

On peut cependant dire, sans trop en révéler, que le film malintend le sentiment amoureux et que ce jeu avec les apparences, cette solitude des destins livrés à eux-mêmes, sont parfaitement reliés par une mise en scène qui privilégie les espaces dépourvus, froids et sans âme où les êtres se croisent mais où tout ne se situe qu'à la surface. Le mensonge et la manipulation ont en effet la part belle dans ce film, mais lorsque Nola entrevoit en Chris la possibilité d'une vie où elle n'aura plus à faire semblant (son insuccès professionnel trahit cette incapacité à la simulation), elle laisse tomber le masque, espérant alors trouver en lui un écho. Il n'en sera malheureusement rien. La fin, amoral et superbement cynique, nous rappelle que chez Woody Allen, contrairement aux *Crimes et châtiments* de Dostoevski dont l'influence est perceptible tout au long du film, le hasard joue le rôle de destin et la justice n'est pas forcément sauve. Cette irrévérence donne parfois lieu à de grands films.

LE MIROIR

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Pierre St-Jacques

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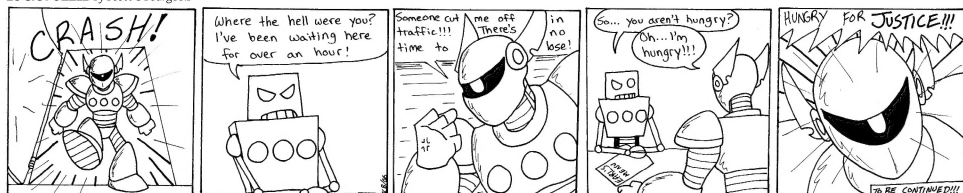
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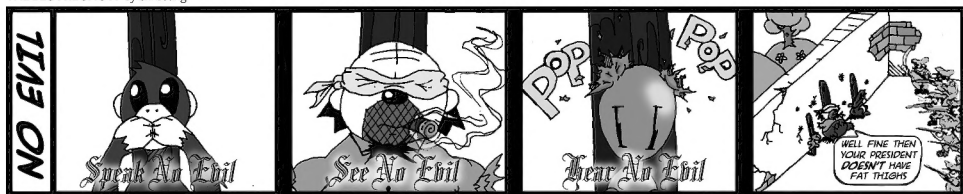
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